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Karpov Dismisses U.S. Counting System
LD282333 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Soviet Foreign Ministry's expert on disarmament, Viktor Karpov, has said that the issue of compliance with the ABM Treaty is not the only complexity at the talks on a 50% cut in strategic offensive arms. In a Radio Moscow interview he spoke of differences in counting air-based [as heard] cruise missiles. The United States has been suggesting such a system of counting under which it receives an additional number of missiles outside the treaty. The USSR, Viktor Karpov said, cannot accept this.

Bogachev Comments on Pentagon Views on CW
LD281843 Moscow TASS in English 1823 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev comments:

By overcoming not very decisive resistence from Congress, ignoring the protests by the world and U.S. public and, finally, challenging common sense, the U.S. Administration ordered the launching of new, binary munitions to chemical weapons.

Washington took this provocative step that opens a new twist in the chemical weapons race in conditions when the Soviet Union completely halted the production of warfare poisonous substances, at the time when the prospects emerged at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament for signing an international convention on a total and universal ban on this weapon of mass destruction. Binary munitions went into U.S. arsenals right after the completion of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting during which the U.S. side openly expressed its commitment to the idea of eliminating chemical weapons stockpiles.

Some Western news analysts air the view that the Washington administration deliberately timed the production of the new variety of chemical weapons to coincide with the end of the Soviet-U.S. top-level meeting to calm the right-wingers who are displeased with the signing of the treaty scrapping intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, to comfort them with the "binary bone" from the plant at Pine Bluff. It seems that this reasoning is far-fetched.

Washington's step apparently stems from the U.S. military concept of "compensating" the weapon systems subject to elimination with others, having the similar purpose. The U.S. "Pershings" and "Tomahawks" were the basic instrument for conducting the so-called limited nuclear war, that is war at a considerable distance from the U.S. borders. Their era, let us hope, has ended. However, the very idea of war which is "relatively safe" for an aggressor seems not to have lost its "attractiveness" to some hot heads in the Pentagon.

There is no protection against nuclear weapons. In the event of a nuclear war, all what the one who strikes first has is a dubious privilege to be the second to perish. This comes to be realized even in Washington. The matter with chemical weapons is somewhat different. The side that plans a sudden chemical attack has the opportunity to prepare well in advance the defence of its troops against a reply chemical strike by providing them, in part, with protective clothing, gas masks, decontamination points, etc. Warfare poisonous substances are a typical first strike weapon. This is exactly why in the Pentagon they stake on it in drawing up scenarios of military conflicts in Europe.

Besides, in the Pentagon they hold that a country which came under a U.S. chemical attack would not use ICBMs, SLBMs or strategic bombers—the strategic delivery vehicles—for a retaliatory chemical strike at aggressor and U.S. territory would allegedly avoid retribution.

These calculations for all of their unreliability breed a highly dangerous illusion that chemical aggression can go with impunity and thus heighten the risk of a chemical warfare. [as received]

Pasko on Construction of Binary Weapons
LD262123 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] The bulletin NATO report published in Brussels writes about the contradictions within the Atlantic bloc regarding the industrial assembly of binary chemical ammunition that has been started in the United States. According to the bulletin, their production may become another obstacle at the Geneva talks on the complete banning of chemical weapons and the elimination of their stocks. Here is Commentator Vladimir Pasko.

[Pasko] The bulletin's remarks regarding the obstacle that the U.S. decision puts in the way to a convention on banning and eliminating chemical weapons is well-founded. This obstacle is becoming ever greater owing to objective reasons. It is well-known that the main distinctive feature of binary weapons is the fact that they consist of components which, if taken separately, may be harmless, and they become lethal only in combination with one another. This means that elements for binary weapons may be manufactured at strictly civil enterprises, too, thus making the verification [kontrol] of [words indistinct], which is already difficult enough, even more complex. I will recall that precisely the problem of verification [kontrol] has become the main reason for the fact that the working out of a convention on chemical weapons has been under way for as long as 15 years.

The Soviet proposal that followed Comrade Gorbachev's famous statement of 15 January last year made it possible to get the matter moving. We said we were prepared to supply information, on a reciprocal basis, about the siting of stocks of chemical weapons, their number and

composition; we have stopped producing these weapons and started constructing enterprises for eliminating them. The Soviet Union stated that it would proceed from a legal confirmation of the principle stipulating mandatory challenge inspection without right of refusal. Thus, at last, a large obstacle was removed. As a result, the conference made distinctive progress. According to diplomats, 80% of the text of the convention has been agreed upon. They started making forecasts about the possible time remaining until this work is completed. But it was precisely at that moment that the United States started putting a new barrier in the shape of a program for chemical rearmament. On 17 December the United States began producing binary weapons; this was done scarcely a week after the Soviet-U.S. summit, at which the U.S. leadership expressed its adherence to the cause of working out the convention.

The U.S. decision on assembling weapons is a blatant step backwards in achieving the elimination of chemical weapons. But this is a broader issue, for this is a step back in achieving security in Europe, too. I will recall that the weapons in question are destined to be stationed precisely in Europe, and it is on this condition that the administration obtained Congress' approval to produce binary weapons. All this poses with graphic renewed force the question to U.S. allies of whether Washington's course corresponds to their true interests.

Gerasimov on Attack on USSR Esfahan Consulate

LD291359 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 29 TASS—Addressing a briefing held here today for Soviet and foreign newsmen, the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry touched upon the details of the bandit attack against the USSR Consulate General in Esfahan on December 27, 1987.

"The attack was launched by a group of outrageous elements from among the Afghan counter-revolutionaries, who settled in Esfahan," Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, said. "More than 300 bandits armed with knives, iron rods, clubs and stones broke into the territory of the USSR Consulate General. They penetrated some premises of the Consulate-General, set a car on fire, destroyed furniture and other material values. The attackers threatened by their actions the lives of the Soviet officials and members of their families, among them children, who were staying in the consulate building.

"After the energetic demarches made by the Soviet side, the territory of the Consulate General was cleared of unauthorised persons an hour and a half after the start of the raid. The police drove the bandits out of the territory of the Consulate-General, he said.

According to a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, as a result of the use of firearms by the police in dispersing the attackers, some bandits were killed. Several policemen were also badly injured. By the end of the day the situation around the Consulate General had returned to normal.

The Soviet side made a resolute protest to representatives of the Iranian Foreign Ministry and the Iranian Embassy in Moscow over the attack. The USSR demanded that the Iranian authorities ensure full security of all the Soviet institutions and citizens in Iran, prevent a repetition of actions of this kind and also compensate for the material damage.

The spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry said that the Iranian side expressed regret over the accident and made assurances that a repetition of hostile actions against Soviet representations would not be allowed.

"The USSR would wish to hope that the Iranian side will meet its commitments," Gennadiy Gerasimov emphasized.

Pyadyshev on FRG's Strauss Visit

LD250844 Moscow TASS in English 0758 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—From a TASS diplomatic correspondent:

Franz-Josef Strauss, prime minister of Bavaria state, chairman of the CSU [Christian Social Union] party, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the West German Bundesrat, will arrive in Moscow on December 28 at the invitation of the State Foreign Economic Commission under the council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., said Boris Pyadyshev, a member of the collegium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

Franz-Josef Strauss will be accompanied by a group of experts. The visit will last for two or three days.

During the stay in Moscow Franz-Josef Strauss will hold a series of meetings at different levels to discuss certain aspects of Soviet-West German relations and matters pertaining to the situation in Europe, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

UN's Perez de Cuellar on International Issues

LD271519 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 26 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast, interview with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by unidentified correspondent, in New York; time not given; questions and answers in English with superimposed Russian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Secretary General, what do you see as the main unresolved problems which will figure on the UN agenda next year?

[Perez de Cuellar] The United Nations is confronted with issues that can be divided into three groups: political, economic, and social problems. As for the political question, I would single out the current armed conflict between Iran and Iraq, the Near East problem, the situation in southeast Asia, the question of the situation surrounding Afghanistan, the situation in Central America, discussion of the situation in Korea and the problems of the African continent—unfortunately, there is more than just one problem in Africa. As for the most burning problems, I would also single out that of disarmament.

[Correspondent] in regards to this, the recent Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington was, in many respects, an important milestone.

[Perez de Cuellar] Without going into details, which is always quite tiring, I would like to stress from the very start the main thing is that for the first time in history an agreement has been reached on disarmament, and that other steps may follow it.

[Correspondent] Could you give an assessment of the Soviet Union's role in the work of the United Nations?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, you are providing me with a wonderful, or a golden opportunity, as they say, of expressing my most profound gratitude to the Soviet

Union and to the Soviet leader, General secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, for the mighty support which your country renders to the United Nations Organization. I am very, very grateful to your country, to the Soviet Union, for all that support.

[Correspondent] We are on the threshold of 1988. What would you, secretary general, like to wish the Soviet people and the peoples of our whole planet?

[Perez de Cuellar] I would like to wish the peoples of the world, including the Soviet people, that for which all peoples of the earth long—peace. Allow me to recall a little of my forgotten Russian to say: I wish you all well and happiness [final phrase in Russian].

West's Reluctance Over UN Gulf Navy Viewed

LD240616 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] On the subject of the Persian Gulf situation the CPSU Central Committee general secretary, as the foreign news media and in particular the Czechoslovak RUDE PRAVO newspaper are writing, noted that the situation there continues to worsen, threatening to turn into a serious international conflict, and have called on partners in the West for joint reflection and cooperation in this matter. And what about the West? There, however, they prefer to place under doubt the Soviet Union's readiness to support a Security Council decision on introducing economic sanctions against Iran. At the same time they are showing a negative attitude to the Soviet proposal to create UN naval forces to ensure the security of international shipping in the Persian Gulf.

Thus a couple of days ago, speaking in the capital of Saudi Arabia, Mellor, the British minister of state in the Foreign and Commonwealth office, stated official London's skeptical attitude to this Soviet initiative. He said in particular: We consider the hidden aim of the Soviet proposal is to remove the naval forces of Western countries from the Persian Gulf where they are acting in the interests of coastal Arab states. This is how David Mellor justified Great Britain's position on this matter, and obviously that of other NATO countries which have sent large formations of their warships into the Gulf zone. Is such a position reasonable? With this question I turn to my colleague Igor Surguchev. Go ahead.

[Surguchev] If a leadership utilizes the old political thinking and considers the situation in the Persian Gulf from the view of confrontation between East and West, as Mr Mellor does, then there is a definite reason for this. It is senseless to deny that the proposal put forward by our country pursues the aim of removing the NATO military presence in a potentially explosive region enveloped by the Iran-Iraq war and replacing it with a neutral international squadron under the UN flag. This aim is far from being concealed; it is perfectly clear. However, it is incorrect to make this out to be a striving by the USSR to squeeze Western countries' naval forces out of the Persian Gulf. It is not a question of this, and in my view the British minister is simply casting a shadow on a bright day.

The essence of the Soviet proposal lies in overcoming a bloc approach to the exclusively serious situation in the Gulf, so that ships of Western countries should carry out patrols there not as a naval grouping of NATO but within a composition of UN forces, alongside ships of other states, no less interested in ensuring security for international shipping. Such a formulation of the question is another manifestation of the new political thinking of the Soviet leadership and its course at raising the role of the United Nations as an instrument of maintaining universal peace and security. Unfortunately the governments of Western powers are inclined to ignore this feature of principle, of paramount importance, and to treat our country's initiative simply as an attempt to undermine the West's positions in the Persian Gulf zone. I will not start questioning Mr Mellor's assertion that the presence there of the naval forces of Western countries meets the interests of coastal Arab states, since if it is not true it is better for these countries themselves to refute it. Nonetheless it is known that a number of Arab countries are expressing fears over the concentration of the NATO armada in their direct vicinity while Iran considers it a real threat to its security.

In any event the British minister's statement in Riyadh does not answer the question: Why cannot the warships of Britain, the United States, France, and other Western states fulfill the functions for ensuring freedom of shipping in the Persian Gulf within the composition of a neutral international squadron? Incidentally, the idea of creating such a squadron fully meets the aims of normalizing the situation in that region and a most rapid halt to the Iran-Iraq conflict, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598, in violation of which NATO countries sent their naval forces to the Gulf. Their replacement by UN naval forces would remove the well-known fears of certain states in the region, and first and foremost Iran, and would strengthen the authority of the aforementioned resolution and its influence on the warring sides. You see there are grounds to suppose that the position of Tehran, which refuses to accept resolution 598, is influenced by the presence near Iranian shores of the armada of NATO countries who do not conceal their hostility to Iran.

Taking into account all of these not unimportant circumstances, the Soviet Union put forward the proposal to form UN naval forces and with full reason Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted yesterday at the meeting in the Kremlin with King Husayn of Jordan, that the creation of such forces will make it possible to improve the political climate and to concentrate attention directly on the task of halting the Iran-Iraq war. For the sake of this, we think, it is time for our Western partners to

renounce their skepticism regarding the Soviet proposal and to get down to studying it seriously, having in mind cooperation with the Soviet Union on this matter.

Kashlev Comments on Status of Vienna CSCE Talks
PM241135 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 87 First Edition p 4

[Dispatch by own correspondent B. Dubrovin: "What Is New in Vienna?"]

[Text] Vienna, December [dateline as published]—The third all-European meeting since Helsinki (the previous ones were in Belgrade and Madrid), involving 33 European states, the United States, and Canada, has been going on here for a little over a year.

A year is a short time, so it is natural to ask: What have they managed to achieve in that time? What problems of the all-European process are near to being solved and on what problems do differences of opinion remain? What place is the Vienna meeting intended to occupy in the general picture of present-day international relations?

The latest round of the meeting has ended on the threshold of a new year, 1988. There is a break now until 22 January 1988. In what kind of atmosphere and with what attitude toward the future did the Vienna forum participants take their latest "time-out"?

I asked USSR delegation head Ambassador Yu. B. Kashlev to answer this question.

[Kashlev] First of all I will say that the latest stage of the Vienna meeting took place in a situation that culminated in a major event in world politics. I am referring to the signing of the treaty between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of two classes of nuclear missiles.

The focal point of the intensive summit talks in Washington was questions of reducing strategic offensive arms. Other disarmament problems were also discussed there. Including something that is exceedingly important for us, the participants in the Vienna meeting—the reduction of conventional arms and armed forces in Europe.

The two countries' leaders expressed determination to ensure—in conjunction with the the other 33 CSCE participants—the successful completion of the Vienna meeting on the basis of balanced progress in all the main areas of the Helsinki Final Act and Madrid final document.

A specific feature of the talks at the Vienna meeting is that the discussion covers practically the entire spectrum of international relations. The military, political, economic, and humanitarian aspects of relations between the 8 socialist and 27 capitalist countries of Europe and North America are discussed. Every week at the Vienna meeting there are more than 20 sessions: Two plenary sessions for the delegation heads, sessions of the six editorial groups plus conferences of the various contact groups and so forth. In all more than 300 diplomats participate in them.

Representatives of all the states participating in the talks, irrespective of whether they are members of military-political blocs or are neutral, have equal rights on all issues. This equality ensures the principle of consensus—unanimity. This principle, of course, does not make it easier to achieve accords, but it does make them democratic and reliable.

The year's work at the Vienna meeting can be divided into several stages. The first was the discussion of the process of implementing the accords previously elaborated in Helsinki and Madrid. This stage was often conducted in an acrimonious, confrontational spirit imposed on the meeting participants by the NATO countries, primarily by the U.S., British, and Canadian delegations. Their aim was no big secret: Taking advantage of the restructuring, democratization, and glasnost that have begun in our country, they tried to impose on the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries demands of an overtly ideological nature (in effect, it was all about freedom of political opposition and unrestricted emigration).

At the same time, the United States and some of its allies pursued yet another line—detaching military security and disarmament problems from the all-European process. This line, naturally, greatly inhibited the overall pace of the work.

The second stage of the talks in the Austrian capital was the submission of proposals by the participating states for the future. It was the socialist countries who took the initiative. I will mention, for example, the proposal on continuing the Stockholm Conference on Confidence Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe put forward by Poland with the support of all the socialist countries, and also another collective proposal by the Warsaw Pact countries—on starting new talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The Soviet Union put forward proposals on holding a conference in Moscow on the development of humanitarian cooperation. Czechoslovakia put forward one on an all-European economic forum, and Bulgaria proposed holding an all-European ecological forum. The list goes on. So far a total of around 150 different proposals have been made concerning the 3 new accords on the development of the Helsinki process which could be recorded in the final document of the Vienna meeting. Approximately half of them were made by the socialist countries.

Now we are in the third stage of the meeting—the elaboration of the final document and accords on the measures which will be carried out after Vienna. M.S. Gorbachev recently noted that the Vienna meeting's workload is now increasing. "We are expecting it to culminate," he said, "in accords on all three of the so-called Helsinki 'baskets.' All the participants clearly have something to put in them."

The overall situation at the meeting is an uneven one, with progress in some areas and logjams in others. What is the position on military issues? At the consultations involving 23 Warsaw Pact and NATO countries taking place here in connection with the Vienna meeting, and at which he mandate for new talks in the future on armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals is being elaborated, positions have come somewhat closer together. For instance, it was agreed that talks will begin within the context of the all-European process as early as 1988. At the same time, there has been no solution to a number of important issues, for example, on dual-purpose weapons capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads. We consider that this dangerous (and growing) type of weapon must be considered and reduced in conjunction with conventional arms. NATO, however, is against this.

Yet another difficulty has arisen: A number of NATO countries are continuing the line of preventing countries that are not members of blocs, that is, the neutral and nonaligned CSCE states, from participating in the examination of disarmament issues.

Vienna meeting circles are expressing the hope that preliminary agreement on the full range of military-political themes will be followed by implementation of the Soviet proposal on convening in Vienna a conference of the 35 countries' foreign ministers which would be able to take a decision on starting new talks on disarmament and on strengthening military security in Europe.

The greatest progress at the Vienna meeting has been achieved on the second "basket," which involves examining questions of economic, trade, scientific and technical links and cooperation in environmental protection. A draft of the relevant chapter of the final document has been prepared here and discussion is under way of specific proposals on holding all-European forums on the aforementioned subjects after Vienna.

Another question is what is happening in the humanitarian sphere, to which the West is giving prominence at the Vienna meeting.

In the Helsinki process, of course, it could be said that all the areas are main ones, they are all interrelated. However, it should be admitted that there are more unresolved humanitarian issues than anything else, and it is on this that the degree of trust (or distrust) on the continent heavily depends. Therefore the Soviet Union has made a radical proposal—to convene in Moscow, for the first time in the history of the Helsinki process, an all-European conference on the development of humanitarian cooperation. The USSR proposes that it examine—with a view to practical solutions—the entire range of humanitarian affairs.

For example, the question of creating in this area a kind of mechanism for consultations and cooperation is currently being discussed in Vienna.

An increasing number of Western countries are nowcoming out in favor of a Moscow conference. The decisive role is played here by the processes taking place in the Soviet Union—restructuring, democratization, and glasnost—and our country's new, open, and constructive approach to international humanitarian cooperation.

Exploratory talks are being conducted at the Vienna meeting to agree on mutual commitments on human rights, contacts between people, exchange of information, and so forth. Totally unrealistic, maximalist demands by a number of Western delegations (for example, on the abolition of entry and exit visas and passports) are frequent obstacles. At the same time, they avoid assuming commitments on social and economic rights and adopting effective measures to combat unemployment, illiteracy, and racial discrimination. We, however, are consistently seeking to ensure that in all its aspects—military-political, economic, and humanitarian—the all-European process brings tangible results for the peoples of the 35 countries whose leaders signed the historic Final Act in Helsinki in 1975.

The Vienna forum participants must do all they can to ensure that the all-European process does not lag behind the dynamics of today's world politics.

USSR Aides Meet Foreign Leaders, Discuss Summit

PM231644 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meetings of Representatives of the Soviet Leadership"]

[Text] In the course of the continuing thorough exchanges of opinions with leaders of foreign countries, representatives of the Soviet leadership are setting forth assessments of the results of the talks between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan on central questions of international politics, emphasizing the historic significance of the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles in promoting progress along a wide front of problems of arms limitation and disarmament and the improvement of the general international situation.

The heads of state and government, foreign ministers, and other prominent statesmen and politicians in foreign countries are voicing their opinions on the Soviet-American summit meeting, expressing the hope of continuing constructive dialogue between the USSR and the United States, and emphasizing the need to step up efforts to further reduce arms in the world and strengthen the international climate of trust and cooperation.

J. E. dos Santos, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola Labor Party and president of Angola, in a talk with special envoy V. A. Ustinov, noted that in the Angolan leadership's opinion an important step in the direction of the relaxation of international tension was taken at the Washington meeting. He expressed confidence that the improvement which has taken shape in Soviet-American bilateral relations will undoubtedly have a positive influence on the course of world events and the thawing of the political climate throughout the globe. The president stressed that in its struggle to eliminate the nuclear threat and create a nuclear-free, more secure world, the Soviet Union can count wholly on the support of the people's of Angola.

Rabah Bitat, chairman of the Algerian National People's Assembly, and Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamed Aberkane received special envoy M.D. Sytenko.

The Algerian representatives gave a high assessment of the accords reached in Washington, first and foremost the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which, as was noted in the greetings message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is the first breakthrough in the disarmament sphere and is destined to make its mark on the entire range of present-day international relations. The Algerian side emphasized the dynamic nature of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, which played a major role in the attainment of the Washington accords.

British Foreign Secretary G. Howe received special envoy A.A. Obukhov, who was in London. During the talk which took place on the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, G. Howe particularly singled out the importance of the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which provides specifically for the elimination of the corresponding nuclear arms in conditions of a verification and monitoring regime of unprecedented strictness.

The British Government, the minister noted, shares the Soviet side's view that the summit meeting did not, of course, eliminate all differences between the USSR and the United States. It is, however, important that the two sides are fully determined actively to continue the joint search for ways of settling the remaining difficult questions and expanding the sphere of cooperation and consensus. In Britain, G. Howe said, people believe that the impetus given to Soviet-U.S. relations by the Washington summit must not be lost.

Here the minister stressed in particular the importance of continuing work on a treaty on 50% reductions in Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive arms. In his opinion the monitoring mechanism agreed in relation to the Treaty on Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles is a good basis for resolving corresponding questions in connection with strategic offensive arms.

A meeting took place in Brasilia City between USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.G. Komplektov and Brazilian acting foreign minister P.T. Flecha de Lima. On the Brazilian side, on behalf of the leadership, it was noted that assessments of the results of the Soviet-U.S. talks and their positive influence on the world situation coincide. Brazil also expressed the intention to promote the resolution of topical international questions, including through collaboration with other countries.

On the instructions of the president of the Republic of Cyprus, Foreign Minister Y. Iacovou received USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V. P. Loginov. V. P. Loginov also had talks with V. Lisaridhis, chairman of the House of Representatives (parliament), and E. Papaioannou, general secretary of the Restorative Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL). The Cypriot side regards the treaty as a first practical step that, the peoples hope, will pave the way to total disarmament in the world. It was stressed that this first step is particularly important not only by virtue of the significance of the content of the treaty that was signed, but also because it is clear evidence of the two superpowers' political will to move in the right direction. Progress in the disarmament sphere, especially in nuclear disarmament, is itself of the utmost significance for mankind's survival and future.

Norwegian Foreign Minister T. Stoltenberg, during a meeting with N. N. Uspenskiy, chief of the Second European Department at the USSR Foreign Ministry, noted that the signing of the Treaty on Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles meets with wide support among all the country's political parties and the public.

Regarding the treaty as a factor for strengthening stability and security in Europe, the Norwegian side comes out against the buildup of other arms systems in new geographical regions, including northern Europe. In this connection Norway welcomed the attainment of a Soviet-U.S. agreement to discuss the possibility of limiting sea-launched cruise missiles.

The Norwegian side noted with satisfaction that the positions of the USSR and Norway coincide on other items on the agenda at the Washington meeting—the ending of nuclear tests, the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and the banning of chemical weapons. The Norwegians came out in favor of the strict interpretation of the ABM Treaty and the speediest ratification of the Soviet-U.S. threshold agreements of 1974 and 1976.

Attention was attracted in Norway by the provisions of the joint statement at summit level on the desire to develop cooperation on the problems of the Arctic. According to a statement by Deputy Foreign Minister K. Vibe, this should be seen as a continuation and development of the ideas put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in Murmansk.

Netherlands Foreign Minister H. van den Broek received special envoy V. B. Lomeyko. During the exchange of opinions which took place, emphasis was placed on the great significance of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles along the path to nuclear disarmament and the strengthening of stability and security in Europe and throughout the world.

The Soviet representatives' meetings with leaders of foreign countries continue.

Ryzhkov on Restructuring, Relations, Issues

PM281501 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Dec 87 Morning Edition pp 1,3

["Interview Given to Swedish Newspaper by N.I. Ryzhkov, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers"—IZVESTIYA headline]

[Text] On 21 December N.I. Ryzhkov received C. Jutterstrom, chief editor of the Stockholm newspaper DAGENS NYHETER, and answered several of her questions concerning restructuring in the Soviet Union, Soviet-Swedish relations, and the contemporary international situation.

We in Sweden, C. Jutterstrom said, are following with great interest the development of the reform process in the USSR which is conventionally designated "restructuring." Could you first provide a general analysis of this "restructuring," of its causes and goals?

Answer: We understand by restructuring to mean the process of society's revolutionary renewal and profound transformations in all spheres of life—political, economic, social, cultural. The restructuring concept formulated by the April (1985) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the party's 27th congress stems from the deep-seated processes and real problems in the life of Soviet society and outlines substantiated prospects for its development.

Our goal is to accelerate the pace of our movement forward, to secure a substantial increase in the people's well-being, to take the socialist society to new qualitative heights, to reveal more fully the humanist nature of our system. As was remarked at the January (1987) plenum, the course of restructuring is the direct continuation of the great accomplishments begun by Lenin's party in the October days of 1917, and not simply the continuation but also the development and deepening of the revolution's main ideas.

There are many reasons for the urgency of restructuring. The decline in the pace of economic growth, stagnation in many spheres, the mistakes and omissions perpetrated by the country's leadership. As we say, a mechanism took shape here which applied the brakes to socioeconomic development.

A pertinent question: What caused all this? Naturally, we have sought the answer to it by profoundly analyzing our past and our present. It became clear that the roots of this braking effect lay in the shortcomings in the functioning of socialist democracy and in the backward, cumbersome economic mechanism that impedes the combination of the working people's personal interests with the interests of society as a whole.

Our socialist society possesses a gigantic economic, political, cultural, and spiritual potential, yet we are making extremely inefficient use of this wealth, and frequently just squandering it. So what will we be doing in the immediate future in order to change the situation?

The period of the realization of the causes of our problems is already behind us. An integral restructuring platform has been formulated that embraces the economy, the political system, and the social and spiritual sphere. This platform has received the ardent support of Soviet people and, as you know, has generated a broad international response.

We are now into the second, more complex and crucial stage, when the implementation into real life and practice of everything projected is unfolding along a broad front. The fate of restructuring is, in our view, determined by two closely intertwined strands of our development—the democratization of all social life and radical economic reform. It is via this course, reflected in the theoretical concept and the program of restructuring, that we are proceeding and will continue to proceed.

Of course, we are renewing our country and our society on an exclusively socialist basis; we are not restoring capitalism. However, we do not reject here the utilization of the experience accumulated by other countries—primarily, of course, the socialist countries.

I would advise all those readers of your newspaper who want to go deeper into the meaning of restructuring, why we find it necessary, what is its essence and purpose, and what might its consequences be for the Soviet Union and the world community to turn to M.S. Gorbachev's just published book "Restructuring and the New Thinking for Our Country and the Whole World." In it the author shares his reflections on restructuring, on the scale of the changes, and on the complexity and the crucial and unique nature of our times.

The Swedish journalist then asked if there are grounds for believing that the present attempts to accomplish a reform of the Soviet economy will prove more successful than those undertaken in the sixties and the seventies.

Answer: As I have already said, the radical economic transformations being pursued in the country are one of the two main elements of restructuring. The word "attempt" that you employed is unsuitable here, since the depth and scale of the transition now under way to the rails of the new economic mechanism are incomparable with the economic reform of the 1960s-1970s.

The sociopolitical conditions in which we are today realizing the economic reform differ qualitatively from the earlier period's national economic situation and management system. At that time the measures to improve the economic mechanism did not rest upon the all-embracing democratization of society and the management sphere.

These measures were characterized by a lack of comprehensiveness and a lack of consistency in their implementation. They did not affect profoundly the upper echelons of management and did not orient all elements of the national economy toward high end results, toward economic methods of leadership. In those years we failed to draw together the interests of the labor collectives and the tasks set for the enterprises. As a result the broad masses essentially did not actively join in the transformation process.

We did, of course, take all these errors and mistakes into account when undertaking our current restructuring. The reform is a profound and all-embracing one affecting practically all spheres of life. It already has a legislative foundation. It rests in its development on economic laws and interests which, it can be said, are being fully engaged for the first time in the socialist system of management. Finally—and this is the main thing—the consistently developing democratization process in the country is the guarantee that the present reform will not suffer the fate of the earlier ones. There will be no return to the old way; this simply cannot be, because the people have joined actively in restructuring.

The next question concerned the possible economic and social consequences of the reform of the prices system in the Soviet Union.

Answer: The restructuring of the economy's management gave rise to the need to also carry out a reform of price formation as the most important integral part of the economic mechanism. It is primarily a question of reexamining the prices via which settlements are effected between enterprises and organizations of differing national economic sectors—industrial, construction, agricultural, transport and communications. Without this it is practically impossible to accomplish the transition to economic accountability [khozyaystvennyy raschet] and self-financing on the principles of radical economic reform. In pursuing the reform we will be establishing more economically sound correlations of prices for the output of the raw-material and processing sectors of industry, and eliminating the established illusion of the cheapness of raw-material resources. The new prices will be aimed at stimulating the economical utilization of raw and other materials, fuel, and so on.

As for the restructuring of consumer prices, this affects the interests of the entire population and is therefore the most acute socioeconomic issue of price formation reform. The reform of prices will result in the establishment of more correct correlations of prices for various types of goods and services, which will permit the stimulation of a more ideal consumption structure on the basis of increased commodity production, improved product quality, and the population's increased incomes.

The chief condition that must be observed when introducing the new consumer prices is preventing any lowering of the population's standard of living. Moreover, it is essential not only to maintain the working people's standard of living but also to ensure an increase in it for certain categories of working people, for the fuller implementation of social justice. All this will require the elaboration of special compensation measures. To a considerable degree this will be done by using the subsidies currently allocated from the budget to cover the difference between prices for the production and sale to the population of a number of foodstuffs.

In view of the great sociopolitical significance of the reform of price formation, it will be the subject of a broad democratic discussion in the country.

It is essential here to bear in mind that the party's projected social program, which envisages the further enhancement of the people's material and cultural standard of living, will be implemented in full.

In reply to the question: Does the realization of restructuring presuppose a historic break with "Stalinism? it was stated:

We have a wise saying: "Measure seven times before excising once." You talk about a historical break with "Stalinism," but before embarking on a surgical operation it is necessary to have a precise diagnosis. What specifically is it necessary to break with? It is no secret that notions of "Stalinism" in the West and our assessments of that period in the USSR's history do not coincide. If you mean by this violations of socialist legality or, for example, a bureaucratic-command system of managing the economy, here we have both taken their measure and excised them. "Stalinism" and socialism are sometimes equated in the West. In this connection let me repeat one of the key formulas of our restructuring: There must be more socialism.

Restructuring is a resolute rejection of obsolete, erroneous, and harmful things retarding further development and hampering the full revelation of all the potential that our society possesses. Restructuring is based on the powerful foundation of the society built by Soviet people

in the post-October decades, and takes account and makes use of everything of value created by the Soviet people under the party's leadership.

In making a principled assessment of Stalin's personality we proceed from the premise that Stalin cannot be equated with the entire party, with the millions of ordinary people whose commitment to Leninist ideas and revolutionary ideals was not shaken during the the hardest and most tragic periods of our history.

It is impossible to ignore the path traveled by our country and its economy, which in a short historical period has stridden from wooden plows and an underdeveloped industry to the taming of the atom and the heights of space science and technology. At the same time we cannot forget the most blatant errors, the deviations from the principles of socialism, or the unjustified repressions that cannot be forgiven.

Answering a question aboput the state of Soviet-American relations and the prospects for their development in the immediate future, N.I. Ryzhkov noted in part that the talks held between the leaders of the USSR and the United States in Washington open up favorable prospects for resolving the question of radically reducing strategic offensive arms. This question occupies a central place in Soviet-American relations and the entire process of ending the arms race. For the USSR's part, we advocated the speediest practical implementation of the understanding on a 50% reduction in strategic offensive arms while strictly complying with the ABM Treaty.

There are positive changes in Soviet-American relations. There is more dynamism in them, and trust is on the increase. The accords reached in Washington make it possible to hope for further progress. Our firm intention is to continue to improve relations with the United States in all fields, but this process cannot and must not be a one-way street; it is a mutual process.

It is clear that the state of relations between the USSR and the United States is of great significance for the entire international situation. At the same time I wish to restate something that has already been said many times: The Soviet Union does not look at the world through the prism of Soviet-American relations. Our relations with other countries—large and small—have an independent value of their own.

The Soviet position on the question of a settlement of the conflict in and around Afghanistan and on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country was explained to the Swedish journalist.

Answer: The Soviet Union wants a settlement of the situation around Afghanistan by political means, and comprehensively supports the national reconciliation program advanced by the government of the Republic of Afghanistan. Such a settlement must be based primarily on an end to the external armed interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, which would create the conditions for the withdrawal of the Soviet troop contingent stationed there.

A political settlement is not a remote prospect but an immediate possibility [vozmozhnost samogo blizhayshego budushchego]. At the end of November 1987 Kabul was the venue for a representative Loyah Jirgah—the Grand Assembly of Afghanistan—at which Najibullah, the country's president, announced a decision agreed upon with the Soviet side to withdraw the troops in no more than 12 months. Here he noted the possibility of this period being shortened if further progress is achieved in the matter of national reconciliation. Now there are no longer Soviet troops in 12 of Afghanistan's 29 provinces.

So you can judge for yourself that when the Soviet Union talks about having adopted a political decision on troop withdrawal it backs up its statements with absolutely concrete actions.

Our only wish for Afghanistan is to see it as an independent and nonaligned state friendly toward the Soviet Union. Friendly not only toward us but also toward other neighboring countries and all states of the world.

In response to a question about the development of Soviet-Swedish relations and their present state, it was noted that their development has been uneven and that there have been periods of cooling and even slight frostiness, for which the Soiviet side has not been to blame.

Considerable damage has been done to the two countries' relations by the so-called "submarine campaign" unleashed in Sweden in connection with a Soviet submarine's accidental entry into Swedish waters in the fall of 1981, which we sincerely regret. Reverberations of this unwarranted campaign are still audible even now, although the Soviet side has long since provided corresponding exhaustive explanations. Soviet warships have clear instructions not to approach the limits of Swedish territorial waters, and they unswervingly observe them. Our country respects Sweden's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The Soviet Union has always sought to maintain good-neighborly relations with Sweden. Meetings at a high political level have become a practical part of our relations in the postwar period. In 1978 King Carl Gustav XVI paid an official state visit to the Soviet Union—the first in the history of Soviet-Swedish relations. Exchanges of visits by our heads of government have become regular. Parliamentary ties and contacts between the heads of our foreign policy departments have become a stable phenomenon. Political consultations are held via foreign ministry channels. Many sector ministries in our countries maintain practical ties. Mutually advantageous contacts in the sphere of science,

technology, culture, and sport are developing fairly extensively. The Soviet-Swedish Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation and its numerous sectorial working groups operates productively, in our view.

Trade and economic ties, based on the Long-term Program for the Development of Economic, Industrial, Scvientific, and Technical Cooperation for 1981-1990 and the long-term agreement on trade through 1995, are also characterized by a definite degree of permanence. Although the USSR's share of Sweden's foreign trade is small, it seems to us that there are great untapped reserves in this field.

Soviet-Swedish relations now have a solid legal and treaty basis—many intergovernmental and interdepartmental treaties and agreements governing our ties in diverse fields have been concluded and are "operating" successfully. During my upcoming visit in January 1988 it is planned to sign several more important agreements.

We well remember Prime Minister I. Carlsson's official visit to the Soviet Union in April 1986. This visit enabled us to continue our personal acquaintanceship with the prime minister, whom we first met in sad circumstances—at the funeral of Olof Palme, who was felled at the hands of a vile assassin.

During I. Carlsson's visit to Moscow we reached the joint view that the further development of Soviet-swedish relations in the political, economic, cultural, and other fields promotes the strengthening of peace and security in Europe. We reiterated our desire to make use of the opportunities that exist to develop and enrich the relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The intervening period has shown that we are advancing confidently along this correct path. Definite dynamism, stability, and good-neighborliness are now inherent in Soviet-Swedish relations, promoted in our view to a considerable extent by the coincidence of approaches and attitudes to a number of vitally important problems of the age—primarily the problem of averting the threat of a nuclear catastrophe.

C. Jutterstrom asked what assurances the Soviet Union can make to dispel the concern felt by certain circles in north European countries about the possible growth of tension in the north European region, particularly the Baltic Sea, as a result of the conclusion of the agreement between the United States and the USSR on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles.

Answer: The signing of the treaty in Washington made a practical start on the building of a world without nuclear weapons. This is a truly historic event, an important new milestone in international development. The elimination of two classes of nuclear missiles and the very stringent verification measures stipulated by the treaty are in keeping with the interests of all peoples, including north Europeans, and increase the level of security and trust on a global scale. Essentially speaking a new situation has emerged, a situation conducive to progress on many problems which previously seemed difficult to resolve, including problems affecting the north European region.

As for concern about a possible increase in tension, we share it too. The point at issue here is not the treaty, but the fact that certain NATO military and political circles attempting to circumvent the treaty are becoming more active. It is no secret that it is in precisely the northern area that attempts are being made to find ways to "compensate" for the loss of the Pershings and ground-launched cruise missiles by building up other types of nuclear and nonnuclear arms in northern waters and airspace. Nor is it a secret that American representatives have been having talks about this in a number of West European countries, including northern countries, as recently as last week. The Soviet leadership hopes that our partners at the Geneva talks will adhere to sober and realistic positions devoid of aspirations to achieve one-sided advantages and deliberately deceive both their own and the world public.

The new situation and qualitatively different atmosphere in the world after the Soviet-American talks in Washington can and must have a positive influence on the strengthening of security and lessening of military activity in the north European region and adjoining seas. As for specific Soviet proposals in this field, they—or rather a whole package of them—were spelt out in the CPSU Central Committee general secretary's 1 October speech in Murmansk. This is our current action program. The Soviet Union is full of goodwill and determination to advance further along the path of its practical realization. We hope that we will find that north Europeans are interested partners in dialogue and mutual action. For we share common concerns—to make the north indeed a region of peace and creation.

Officials Discuss Arms, Other Issues

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["Repercussions" program entitled "Geneva, Reykjavik, and Washington: Landmarks on the Way to Lasting Peace" presented by Boris Aleksandrovich Kalygin, political observer for the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio, with Stanislav Nikolayevich Kondrashov, IZVESTIYA political observer; Colonel General Nikolay Fedorovich Chervov, chief of a directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces;and Nikolay Vladimivorich Shishlin, deputy chief of the International Information Subdepartment of the CPSU Central Committee]

[Text] [Kalyagin] Hello, esteemed viewers. Once again weare having a get-together with you in the television studio of our "Repercussions" program at Ostankino in order to answer the questions that are of concern to you.

Today we shall be speaking about the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington, but we shall, of course, be touching also on Geneva and Reykjavik, for after all it was in those places that the essential foundation was laid for the success achieved in the U.S. capital.

I suggest that you immediately note down the telephone numbers of our studio. [screen shows telephone numbers] As usual, you may call us on any of these numbers. The operators will receive your question and immediately hand it to us. It is desirable that you give your surname, occupation, and place of residence. This is desirable, but not obligatory. So let me repeat once again: Please note down our telephone numbers.

Now, permit me to present those taking part in our program today. They are: Stanislav Nikolayevich Kondrashov, IZVESTIYA political observer; Colonel General Nikolay Fedorovich Chervov, chief of a directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces; and Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, head [as heard] of the International Information Subdepartment of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Soviet-U.S. top-level dialogue has covered practically all the key problems of the present day. Well, it has, of course, primarily been a matter of how to stop mankind from sliding towards a nuclear catastrophe, to reduce and subsequently totally scrap the lethal stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction that have been amassed over decades, and how to create conditions for a transition to a nuclear-free and nonviolent world. The main outcome of the Washington meeting was the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. This is a historic agreement, and it has, as it were, opened a window to a nuclear-free future. It is, at least, a first step on the road to real nuclear disarmament and is, moreover, a fine example for the conclusion of other agreements in this sphere. Marked progress was also achieved in Washington on preparing a still larger-scale agreement on reducing strategic nuclear armaments by 50%, provided there is compliance with the ABM Treaty. The CPSU Central Committee general secretary and the U.S. President also discussed regional problems including Central America, Afghanistan, and the situation in the Persian Gulf and in the Near East. They also discussed humanitarian issues and issues concerning the development of Soviet-U.S. relations. All these topics come, of course, within the framework of our discussion today.

I can already hear the operators taking your first questions, but while they are typing them up, dividing them into topics, and bringing them to us, I think that we shall not waste time. I shall draw your attention to a few questions that were asked earlier in previous "Repercussions" programs. We were unable at that time to answer them because time ran out. However, as you will recall esteemed viewers, I promised that we would not fail to give attention to these questions. We are earnestly studying them. We give answers to some of them in our other programs, such as "The World Today," and I have specially prepared a few of the questions for today's edition of "Repreccussions." These questions were, of course, asked prior to the holding of the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Washington, even several months prior to the meeting, but in my view they have not lost their topicality, and maybe their topicality has even increased.

So then, Vladimir Sergeyevich Milyushkin, a Moscow doctor, asks whether general disarmament is possible, seeing that under capitalism there is already a necessary army of unemployed people. By reducing the armed forces, Comrade Milyushkin says, the capitalist country is increasing the numbers of unemployed. What is your view?

[Shishlin] First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to improve my relations with the authorities. You introduced me as the head of the sub-department, while in fact I am deputy head of the sub-department. I say this for clarity's sake.

[Kalyagin, laughing] I do beg your pardon. [laughter from others on panel]

[Shishlin] Now, regarding the question itself, it is a very serious, interesting and profound question. I would nevertheless give an affirmative answer to this question today. I say "affirmative" by virtue of the fact of our previous replies are not suitable for the new world and not suitable for those new realities that mankind is running up against. These realities are, to put it briefly, not just the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. There are also the realities presented by ecological catastrophes too. There are the realities presented by the threats of old and new diseases. Also there are the realities presented by the realistic political forces advocating a radical improvement of international relations and progress towards a nuclear-free and non-violent world. I would answer the question by posing a further question: If, indeed, you recall the situation even just a few months ago with regard to the treaty on medium-range and shorter-range missiles, then most would have been doubtful of the possibility of such a treaty being concluded. Now this treaty has been signed in Washington. I think, therefore, that we do have grounds to view the future with optimism, although the path will not be simple.

[Kalyagin] Here is a question from Comrade Shirenkov, a Moscow engineer; and it is a serious one. At the disarmament negotiations, the question is not being raised of doing away with or reducing the number of U.S. bases around the USSR. Is it expedient to totally give up nuclear armaments? In that event, the USSR will find itself on its own against a ring of U.S. military bases armed with conventional weapons, but conventional weapons of great destructive force. At the same time, the territory of the United States will be in a position of

relative invulnerability. This is a direct violation of equal security. I think that you, Nikolay Fedorovich, need to answer this question.

[Chervov] First of all, one should say that the Soviet Union has never dropped and is not dropping the issue of U.S. military bases from the agenda of the negotiations. Comrade Shirenkov is right when he says that these bases form a ring around the Soviet Union and constitute a real threat to our territory. The bases are full of nuclear weapons and the corresponding nuclear weapons launchers, all of which are targeted at the territory of the Soviet Union. At any rate, it is now known that there are about 1,600 military bases and installations in 34 states of the world, where almost or over 500,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces are stationed. All these bases and installations are smouldering hotbeds of aggression—sources of tension and sources of regional conflicts and localized wars. The Soviet Union and allied socialist countries are waging a resolute struggle for the elimination of military bases and military installations on others' territory.

Really, the principle of military sufficiency—the Soviet military doctrine—and the creation of an all-embracing system of international security are all based on the idea of eliminating military bases and withdrawing troops from others' territory to within national borders. Is the elimination of U.S. military bases realistic, and how is this connected with the issue of disarmament? These matters are closely interrelated. Really they are the two sides of the same coin. Now, take the treaty on medium-range and shorter-range missiles: By eliminating medium-range missiles and several dozen U.S. bases in the territories of many Western states, we are thereby eliminating U.S. military bases too. Further reductions of armaments will also lead to an elimination of U.S. military bases. These matters are interrelated.

[Kalyagin] Thank you. There was another question, from an engineer from Moscow, Andrey Valik. He asks: Will U.S. policy change, or rather, could it change, if a new president comes to the White House? Well, we know there'll be elections next year, in November, so there's sure to be a new president. What's your opinion, Stanislav Nikolayevich?

[Kondrashov] Well, the next presidential elections will, indeed, be held in November of next year; and the current President, Ronald Reagan, will leave the White House and leave the political stage as an active participant. At present, with 10 and 1/2, just over 10 months to go before the elections, it is difficult to guess in advance the name of the new president, but one can say with some confidence that, by and large, his policy will be less conservative, more centrist according to the U.S. political categories, than the policy of the current President, Reagan. Even in these first few weeks since the successful Washington meeting, we mustn't forget that Ronald Reagan is the most conservative U.S. President of modern times. Of the available presidential candidates, Republican or Democrat, his only competitors, really, in point of conservatism are men like Jack Kemp, the congressman from New York, or the well-known preacher, Robertson, who, according to all the polls, do not have the same popularity as other candidates. So the shift will be, as the Americans put it, towards the center.

If we take from this broad wide question that the comrade has asked us, if we take questions of Soviet-U.S. relations, then of course evidently the process that is now taking place—fortunately, and to our satisfaction—evidently that process will be continued under the next president. The present mood of the electorate—as recorded by those same public opinion polls—indicates that the voters dictate, as it were, the continuation of that process. This cannot fail to be taken into account by those who will be contending for the White House next November. Finally, we very often forget—being linked, naturally, to the United States, above all by matters of foreign policy or military strategy—we often forget that, after all, the main thing for the Americans, what they are surrounded by every day and every hour, is the economy—the domestic economy, the day-to-day general economic situation in the country, the "diktat" of certain economic questions, in particular the huge national debt—now amounting to almost $3 trillion—the enormous state budget deficits which have become a permanent feature and are also a very great cause of anxiety for Americans. This also dictates, as it were, these movements in a somewhat different direction, more towards the center, I'd say—I wouldn't go so far as to use the word "left"—of President Reagan. Actually, one could spend a long time answering this question, but I will try to give a short answer and try to sum up what I have said: At least the next U.S. president and his policy will not be further to the right, will not be more conservative, than the present policy and the present President.

[Kalyagin] Well, that would be a good thing, certainly. [panel members chuckle] Some of the questions have been addressed to me. For example, quite a number of viewers have asked whether the actual talks between the delegations of the Soviet Union and the United States couldn't be shown on television, "live" as it were. Well I dare say all—yes, one comrade actually asks directly: Then we could ask the Americans in front of the whole world whether they want to preserve life on earth or not, and if they do, what's stopping them? Well, I do not really think we will ever be able to broadcast such Soviet-U.S. talks directly on television, especially at summit level, because evidently in that case they would not be talks, but some sort of television discussion. In general, it should be said that the attitude to involving television with talks and debates is fairly complicated.

Well, I can give a British example. In Britain, there was a long debate as to whether radio or television could be allowed in Parliament during debates. In the end, after lengthy discussion, radio was allowed to give partial coverage of those debates. As to television, television is categorically not allowed in. The British consider that if

television cameras were installed in Parliament, the speakers would be thinking not only of the business in hand, but also of how they look on the television screen, and it would distract them. There's another factor too, and that is that the United States insists on the confidentiality of the talks; we know, in particular, that both in Geneva and in Reykjavik there was a blackout on all announcements for the press; that is, it was forbidden to give announcements for the press on the progress of the talks until they were over. The U.S. journalists themselves told me this was done at the request of the U.S. side: Evidently the United States felt itself vulnerable on a number of questions of disarmament, and no doubt they did not want to be immediately subjected to criticism in the world press for their unyielding attitude. Well, be that as it may, it's a bilateral question, and of course we're hardly likely to be showing the talks on television; but what I think can be shown is a television discussion at a fairly high level, and this we are doing. There have been television 'bridges' in which deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet and congressmen and senators on the U.S. side have taken part. No doubt in principle the level of such discussions could be raised, if the Americans agreed to it.

[Chervov] I'll just say a couple of words, Boris Aleksandrovich. Questions concerning talks on nuclear and space armaments especially are very complex questions, and if television were present as well, then there would be an audience of many millions and that would not be conducive to achieving results. Besides that, I have to say that these talks are quite often attended by senators and congressmen on the U.S. side, and on the Soviet side by representatives of the Supreme Soviet and other representatives, and therefore despite the confidentiality of these talks, the public nonetheless does participate.

[Shishlin] Moreover, Nikolay Fedorovich, in fact, of course, all the main positions do come to the knowledge of the public from time to time.

[Kondrashov] They are published, the talks. They are published and are revealed almost at once, and in a fair amount of detail, at news conferences.

[Kalyagin] Well, I remember that at Geneva and at Reykjavik nothing was revealed at once.

[Kondrashov] I mean on the outcome.

[Chervov] No, Boris Aleksandrovich; Boris Aleksandrovich, at the talks on nuclear and space armaments it would be very difficult to achieve any results under floodlights.

[Kalyagin] I agree.

[Chervov] I tell you that frankly.

[Kalygin] Yes. Well, here's a question from a serviceman, Andrey Alekseyevich Sidorov from Moscow: Will the memorandum be published in full in the papers? It has only been mentioned, and one would like it to be published in its entirety.

[Chervov] Shall I answer that?

[Kalyagin] Please do.

[Chervov] Well, we have published the treaty in all the papers. A bulletin is now being issued...

[Unidentified speaker interrupts] It is already available, Nikolay Fedorovich.

[Chervov] ...by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I have already held it in my hands, very colorfully produced, in which the treaty is published together with a memorandum of initial data, the protocol on the elimination procedures and the protocol on inspection. In other words, from A to Z, everything that's been achieved at the talks has been published.

[Kalyagin] Here is a question from construction engineer Boris Alekseyevich Aleksandrov of Zelenograd: Within what space of time is the treaty to be ratified? Meaning, presumably, on both sides.

[Shishlin] Well, no limit as such has been set. But the hearing on the treaty will begin in the U.S. Senate on 19 November. It will be studied by three committees: the Foreign Relations Committee, the Committee on Detente and—what's the third committee, Stanislav Nikolayevich?

[Chervov] I don't know, could it the Armed Forces Committee?

[Shishlin] Yes, and in the Armed Forces Committee.

[Chervov] Yes. Well, it's expected—according to U.S. estimates—that the actual ratification will take place in March or April. Well, we need not make any guesses. The important think is how the approaches of the U.S. senators to this treaty are now evolving. Whereas just a week ago the number of senators who were declaring ategorically that they'd oppose ratification of the treaty was 15, the number now being mentioned is 10. It should be said that the President of the United States, Reagan, is now campaigning quite vigorously among the senators and in Congress in favor of ratifying the treaty. Well, the ratification process is beginning in the Supreme Soviet, [words indistinct] starting, naturally, with the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the commissions of the Supreme Soviet.

[Kalyagin] So, in what month can we expect the ratification?

[Shishlin] Well, I think, speaking with moderate optimism, by May.

[Kalagin] On both sides.

[Shishlin] On both sides.

[Kalyagin] There's a particular question, I think, addressed to Stanislav Nikolayevich: Tamara Petrovna Shestovets, of Gomel Oblast in Belorussia, has phoned in to ask about Hayder, who went on hunger strike and then wanted to run for president: Where is he now, and what is he doing?

[Kondrashov] Well, I am afraid I can't answer that question precisely, because Hayder now seems to have disappeared from the public scene. He did indeed end his hunger strike, and having ceased to be a public and moral event and to some extent a sensational one, he has, as I say, vanished from the public eye. Of course, his putting himself forward as a presidential candidate was a purely symbolic gesture; naturally, he has no real chances in that respect.

[Kalyagin] I see. And now an angry question from engineer Serebrikov of Moscow. He says we declared at one time that we would never agree to the zero option; and now there's this treaty. So what are we to make of it, asks Comrade Serebrikov. No doubt you will start answering that, Nikolay Fedorovich?

[Chervov] Well, no such firm position—that we would never accept the zero option—was stated on our part. We always said—and the Soviet leadership stressed it repeatedly—that we were for eliminating nuclear weapons from Europe entirely, for eliminating weapons entirely through the world. That is our position, the position of the Soviet Union as put forward in the program of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev of 15 January 1986. Therefore, as far as the zero option is concerned, it is in fact an integral part of our program. It is another matter that included in this zero option there were the British and French nuclear armaments; and in the initial stages we linked the question of eliminating nuclear weapons in Europe with the nuclear weapons of Britain and France.

Now we have temporarily put this problem aside, so that we can emerge and achieve concrete results. But this question of the nuclear armaments of Britain and France has been put aside temporarily. Once the problem of a 50% reduction of strategic offensive arms has been resolved, the nuclear weapons of Britain and France will certainly be put—will come to the fore. Actually, the leaders of those states have said that given an appreciable reduction of the nuclear arms of the USSR and United States, they will join in the reduction of nuclear armaments. So the zero option has been an integral part of our program.

[Shishlin] I am in agreement with Nikolay Fedorovich, but would just like to add that in the final analysis the treaty on medium-and shorter-range missiles is not about the one zero that figured in President Reagan's original proposal, but rather, it deals with the two zeros. That development of the positions has certainly not happened without the active participation of Moscow and the viewpoint of our country. That is the first point. The second is this: Let us agree once and for all that we should not reagrd every one of our moves in the past as absolutely beyond reproach. There have been fortunate moves and there have been unfortunate ones. Incidentally, this zero itself has a very curious story attached to it. The Americans themselves have said: If you had at once accepted Reagan's zero, you would have put us in a desperate fix; we were convinced that you would reject the zero option.

[Chervov] That it was propaganda.

[Shishlin] Yes. So the fact that we've now achieved zeros on the Soviet side and on the U.S. side on medium-range and shorter-range missiles—that is a fundamental achievement. We shouldn't attribute laurels wither to Washington or to Moscow: It's our common success.

[Kalyagin] It's the beginning of the path to that disarmament. Now we've received a question from a student from Afghanistan—the student of Patrice Lumumba University, (Maiwan). He asks how the Afghanistan problem was tackled at the meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan.

[Shishlin] There was no attempt to resolve that problem at the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting. It was discussed.

[Kalyagin] It was discussed, yes.

[Shishlin] It was discussed in depth—discussed not only at summit level, but also in the working sub-group dealing with regional conflicts. I'd say that during the sessions of that working sub-group, there was something of a new nuance to the discussion. That is, there was an attempt to have a discussion as to what each side—i.e. the Soviet Union and the United States—should do so that this situation in Afghanistan may recede and no longer overflow its banks. Of course, the Americans could not fail to deny the perfectly obvious mutual connection between the situation in Afghanistan today and the deliveries of arms to dushmans that are being carried out precisely by the United States. There is a lively political discussion now going on in the United States about what the Americans should do: Should they stop supplying arms to the dushmans when the withdrawal of Soviet troops begins, or set some timescale for the cessation of those deliveries? I think the gist of that discussion is not that we've now reached a mutual understanding with the Americans regarding the Afghan situation. But all the same this has been a very serious, and therefore productive comparison of views.

[Kalyagin] War and labor veteran Vladimir Mikhaylovich Rumyantsev from Moscow asks a question again about the possibility of disarmament, but this time with regard only to the United States: "Is the possibility of disarmament in the United States a realistic one if the majority of businessmen and workers are making a profit and a living out of arms production? If there is disarmament, what will the Americans then do for a living?" Stanislav Nikolayevich, what do you think?

[Kondrashov] Well, you know, the aim of complete disarmament is one that of course needs time to implement. There need to be a lot of stages for the two powers to go through—us and the Americans, and ultimately other countries, too. Nikolay Fedorovich was right: Sooner or later Britain and France, for example, with their nuclear potentials, will have to join in. So it is hardly possible to say whether in the immediate future this is a realistic or an unrealistic possibility in practical terms. If there is movement in this direction, and we hope there will be, then of course in the intermediate stages other more practical and more concrete issues will also be tackled, in particular the switching of military industry, ultimately along peaceful lines.

There are theories and calculations about this. The calculations may differ, but some of them are actually quite optimistic. It is at present difficult, and again I stress this, to draw some sort of picture in complete detail. The military-industrial complex in the United States is quite strong, and quite a number of U.S. workers are indeed used to working in military plants, being engaged in military production, and receiving quite substantial, quite high wages, for it. But if there is an alternative, and if that alternative does not threaten a drop or the disappearance of the employers' and workers' profits and wages, they will agree to it. To that extent, this sort of prospect cannot be ruled out. On the contrary, it is quite possible.

[Shishlin] Stanislav Nikolayevich, if I may, I'd like to support what you said and remind our viewers that precisely these key issues were raised in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's report on the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution: whether capitalism can live without militarization, whether it can manage without neocolonialism. In other words, the most profound and most acute questions were raised in that report. An outline answer was given, inasmuch as what is taking place is a modification not only of the world community, but is also a certain modification of imperialism as a system, because it, too, exists today amid new realities.

[Kalyagin] In replying to viewers' questions, we would all probably like to see the faces of the people asking the questions, and I think that in the future we will have the technology to do so. For the time being, however, I would like to show you the questions we recorded yesterday on the streets of Moscow. They were recorded by our special correspondent Vladimir Kalinovskiy. Could we see that now, please? [video shows correspondent interviewing people in the street]

[Begin recording] [Kalinovskiy] Do you have any questions for the people taking part in the Repercussions program? Could you introduce yourselves?

[Matveyev] My name is Valentin Vasilyevich Matveyev. I'm an engineer, and this is my son.

[Young Matveyev] I'm Maksim Matveyev, a student at the Moscow Institute of Architecture. Now, since a treaty on the complete elimination of medium-and shorter-range missiles has been signed, and since a draft treaty on a 50% reduction in strategic offensive weapons is being prepared, I want to know what are the British and French positions on this question, because as far as I know they don't intend to reduce their nuclear forces. On the same subject, won't the existence of those countries' quite large nuclear forces affect our country's defense capacity?

[Matveyev] I would like to know what specific economic, military, and political measures are being taken to normalize the situation in the Persian Gulf.

[Zamuly] I'm Lyudmila Zamuly, a postgraduate at the Plekhanov Institute of the National Economy in Moscow. During his visit to Washington, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said once again that we want to withdraw our troops from Afghanistan. My question is this: Can we expect the United States will stop interfering in the country's affairs and will stop its aid to the counterrevolution? On the other hand, are the Afghan revolutionary forces capable of solving their own issues without our military aid?

[Marymov] I'm Vladimir Ivanovich Marymov, a taxidriver. I would like to know what is the attitude of ordinary Americans to us ordinary people, to us workers.

[Smirnov] I am Aleksey Smirnov. We have made certain concessions, and I would like to know whether this might not encourage the West to get more concessions from us. That is a question that interests me.

[Kalinovskiy] And how about you, Grandfather Frost?

[Unidentified man in Grandfather Frost outfit] I would like to ask what prospects are expected next year for an improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations. [end recording]

[Kalyagin] There you are, you see: Even Grandfather Frost is asking about the state of Soviet-U.S. relations. Well, I think that we have already partially replied to some of the questions, in particular on the British and French weapons, but what is of interest, of course, is the question put by postgraduate from the Moscow Institute of the National Economy, Lyudmila Zamuly, about Afghanistan.

[Shishlin] Well, that's a frequest question, one which really does worry all Soviet people. I do not think that the Afghan equation is unsolvable. Of course it is solvable, it is something that can be solved; this is shown by the initial results of the policy of national reconciliation that is being pursued by the Afghan Government. As you know, our country strongly supports this policy of national reconciliation. The military-political situation in Afghanistan, of course, remains complex and difficult, but changes for the better are taking place. So far, these changes have been in terms of quantity—in other words, the return of some of the refugees, the improvement of relations with various strata of the population and the ending of armed struggle by a number of militarized groups running already into thousands. But these, I repeat, have so far been changes in terms of quantity, and not quality. As the quantity mounts, however, it should lead to a qualitative change in the whole situation; and the possibility of setting up a broad coalition government in Afghanistan is a real one.

The possibility of establishing Afghanistan as a neutral and nonaligned state that is friendly to us is also a completely real prospect. I think that world trends themselves imperatively dictate the need to overcome the conflict situation in Afghanistan using political means, precisely political means. In that case, I think that the last part of that viewer's question can to a certain extent be disregarded, because this is not a situation where military action will continue. It is a situation where political means are being used to strengthen what really is a people's regime with the participation of the most varied forces, including the forces which currently stand on the other side of the barricades.

[Kondrashov] Well, there's something there that I would venture to disagree with. Taking the U.S. aid, for example, I think, as someone who follows political reactions in the United States, that it is unlikely that the Americans will help us in this matter.

[Shishlin] Surely I didn't say that they intend to help us?

[Kondrashov] No, no! What I mean is that politically, politically the preservation of a tense situation of acute conlifct in and around Afghanistan is quite advantageous to them. and, of course, this U.S. aid, which amounts to $500 million or $600 million a year and which is assuming acutely dramatic forms such as the supply of those Stinger missiles, contributes to the worsening of the situation.

As far as the future is concerned, as Nikolay Vladimirovich has mentioned, political discussion is indeed going on in the United States as to what to do and how to act if a concrete agreement on Afghanistan is worked out and if the timescale for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops and the starting date for that withdrawal are determined. But there are some Americans who say, and the official position is—or rather part of the official position, because the official position is also divided—part of the official position is that the arms supplies should be ended as soon as the troop withdrawal starts, but others favor continuing them. By this I mean some of the U.S. official circles and some of the public circles, where the U.S. conservatives and ultraconservatives are quite influential.

[Kalyagin] There on the film there was a note of alarm in that question from Smirnov...

[Chervov, interrupting] Regarding concessions.

[Kalyagin] Yes, regarding concessions.

[Chervov] Yes, indeed.

[Kalyagin:] And over whether this would not prompt the West to demand of us more and more concessions.

[Chervov] There are altogether no grounds for concern on this issue. Our position at the negotiations on disarmament and security issues is being very thoroughly worked out. Everything is being weighed up and calculated several times over. It is not the position of just one person or one department. If anyone is representing it as such, he is misleading people. The Soviet position is the result of a great amount of mental work by a large number of people, including the top Soviet leadership. The basis for the negotiations and the basis for all the treaties and agreements is the principle of equality and equal security, and we are strictly guided by and act in accordance with this principle. I should tell you that the Soviet Union and the United States are two states, on whom it is impossible to impose a policy that is unacceptable to them or not of benefit to them. They cannot be forced to make one-sided concessions.

It is claimed that we made one-sided concessions on the treaty concerning medium-range and shorter-range missiles. This is incorrect. Great concessions were made also by the United States. It is a treaty that has taken account of many interests of the sides, including political, military, moral, psychological and other interests. On the whole one may say—this is from the military viewpoint—that a totally real threat to the territory of the Soviet Union and our allies has actually been removed, or is being removed. Equally, a military threat to the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe and to their allies is also being removed. Therefore it is wrong to raise the question of who won and who lost. Everyone won by it. A reduction in a large number of missiles and warheads is taking place. The military confrontation is therefore being lessened, and to some extent the threat of nuclear war is receding. The scientists have quite correctly moved the hands of the clock 5 minutes back.

[Kalyagin] So concessions were made by both sides.

[Chervov] There were concessions by both sides, and to say that it was only the Soviet side which made concessions is quite incorrect, and I state this with full responsibility. It was not here a matter of figures and the claim that we have done twice as much in our destruction of missiles. No, it is not a matter of figures. It is a matter of issues concerning the security of both the sides as well as the security of many states not just in Europe but indeed throughout the world. That is the answer I would give to this question.

[Kondrashov] Boris Aleksandrovich, perhaps you will answer a question from a comrade driving a taxi who asked...

[Kalyagin, interrupting] Yes, nor should we forget, I think, about Grandfather Frost! [laughter]

[Kondrashov] This concerns simple people, simple Americans.

[Kalyagin] Yes, do continue.

[Kondrashov] I should like to say that very frequently simple people prove to be not very simple but indeed fairly complex, because there are many of them and they are diverse in both our country and in the United States. Well, of course the main characteristic of the people or public opinion is the presence of common sense. The people do not always know the details, but common sense directs them into picking out what is most important in politics. It is of course this same common sense that steadfastly leads them in the direction of self-preservation, and this is an extremely important matter in the nuclear age.

I should like to adduce the following in this regard. Among the host of opinion polls which have been conducted since the Washington meeting there was in particular a fairly detailed opinion poll in THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. It included the following categories. When, for instance, they were asked for which candidate they will be voting in the next presidential elections—for one that supports the treaty on medium-range and shorter-range missiles, or for one that is against the treaty—8 out of 9 Republican voters said that they will vote for the candidate supporting the treaty, while 15 out of 16 Democrat voters preferred, so to speak, such a candidate. One of the paradoxes of the U.S. domestic political situation is that the President, in taking these steps, has had greater support among those supporting the opposition party, that is, the Democratic Party. This for its part says just how popular actions of this kind are.

[Kondrashov continues] Nikolay Vladimirovich was speaking about the chances of ratification and the fact that the process of ratification is beginning and most probably will be concluded in April or May, if things go well. Well, the same public opinion poll showed that 72% of those polled are in favor of ratification. Seventy-two percent approved of the meeting between Comrade Gorbachev and President Reagan and its results. Fifty-eight percent, which is an unprecedentedly high figure for the Americans, are positive in their response to the Soviet leader. Sixty-seven percent expressed their approval for Reagan, because Reagan had of course achieved his own political result at the meeting, and his popularity, which had fallen after Irangate, was up by approximately 10%. But at the same time, so that the picture does not appear too rosy, I must say that according to the figures in this poll in THE LOS ANGELES TIMES and according to other information, the majority of Americans, about two-thirds, are in favor of further developing the SDI program.

[Kalyagin] Well, we are receiving various kinds of questions. They also include some fairly angry remarks. For instance Mikhail Abulgazovich Gazizov, a junior research worker in Moscow, asks why such discussions are necessary and who needs them. Apparently he is referring to our dicussions here. Well, it seems to me that this abundance of paper-slips containing questions speaks probably of the fact that these discussions are needed and that they are of concern to our viewers

There is also a slip containing a big request that we speak the truth a bit more. Well, in my view we are endeavoring to speak the truth. However, it is characteristic that the comrade who sent in this question did not give his name. So, if we are speaking of glasnost, let us speak of glasnost for both sides.

I see that there is now a heap of questions here. I have already handed some of them to you, Nikolay Vladimirovich.

[Chervov] Yes, I have some too.

[Kalyagin] Perhaps then you will have something briefly to say on them.

[Chervov] Right.

[Kalyagin] There is also a request that replies be more laconic. I have another slip of paper here. Why, it says, are we chewing the cud for so long over one question? Why are we not giving specific answers to specific questions. That was from pensioner Magomed Saydov from Moscow. We shall try to speak more laconically and to give specific answers.

[Shishlin] I have here a question from Vasiliy Stepanovich Borisov, a Muscovite and a war and labor veteran. This is his question. The U.S. and British publics have direct access to our newspaper PRAVDA in an English translation. What is more, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's book has been published in their countries. However, Soviet people do not have such access, and are reading only commentaries on the speeches by Reagan and others. How does this tie in with our glasnost?

I think that Vasiliy Stepanovich does have a basis for asking this question, although our press has of course changed, the mass information media are changing, and more original material and not just commentaries on material in the bourgeois press is being published. But probably more could be done in this regard, and it could be done more fully, without any fears that our readers and listeners will immediately fall under the spell of the overseas sirens.

[Kalyagin] So, that's all then? Nikolay Fedorovich, you had several questions, didn't you?

[Chervov] Yes, I've got some questions. Aleksandr Nikolayevich Frank, an engineer from Norilsk, asks: Won't the start of production of binary weapons by the NATO countries affect the ratification of the medium- and shorter-range missile treaty? What countermeasures will be taken by the Soviet side? Well, I think it unlikely that this will affect the treaty's ratification. But what it definitely will affect is the drawing up, the completion of the drawing up of a convention on the elimination of chemical weapons, because it is impossible to conclude a convention on the elimination of chemical weapons when the U.S. side ahs started to produce binary chemical weapons. This issue will definitely be discussed in the near future at the Geneva Disarmament Conference, where more than 40 countries are already in the final stretch: The convention is ready, but everything now has come to a standstill because of the United States, in particular because of the U.S. action in producing binary chemical weapons, and also because of the U.S.' striving to remove the production facilities of the multinational corporations and private commerical firms from the verification framework.

[Kalyagin] You know, there's one question that is repeated in various forms. Igor Aleksandrovich Grishin, a serviceman on voluntarily extended service from Moscow, asks: What will happen to the soldiers operating the medium-range missiles? Will there by a troop reduction? Andrey Grigoryevich Zamyatin, a pensioner from Khimki in Moscow Oblast, asks: If an agreement is reached on a 50% reduction in strategic arms, will there be a reduction in the numbers of the armed forces?

[Chervov] Well, first of all, for 3 years those personnel will be engaged in the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles and all the facilities associated with those missiles. What happens after that will be decided by the Soviet Government.

[Kalyagin] I see.

[Chervov] Here's another question, from Comrade Katvitskiy in Kiev: It is very often said in the press that all we need is 5% of the weapons that we have just reduced to be able to destroy the entire world. I haven't read that in the press, and I don't know where it was said. Wouldn't it be better not to manufacture nuclear weapons at all? Of course it would be better. That is our attitude, and we are suggesting to all the nuclear countries that nuclear weapons be forzen, that nuclear production be frozen, and that nuclear weapons not be produced. But it doesn't depend on the Soviet Union alone—it's a bilateral process. Unfortunately the United States, Britain, and France do not accept our position.

[Kondrashov] That comrade has obviously got it slightly confused, because when he said that we only need 5% of those nuclear weapons to destroy life on earth, he evidently meant that 5% of the weapons already stockpiled are sufficient to destroy life on Earth.

[Chervov] There are now so many nuclear weapons stockpiled...

[Kondrashov, interrupting] 20 times over...

[Chervov]...that the whole of civilization on earth could be destroyed many times over, many times over.

[Kalyagin] Here's a question that I think both of you should answer—although it's actually addressed to Shishlin, I think that Stanislav Nikolayevich could also.

[Shishlin] Let Stanislav Nikolayevich answer it!

[Kalyagin] No, I thought you could both give an answer. I don't know whether the answers will be different, but here is the question. It is from Semen Yakovlevich Grigoryants in Moscow: "You have been to the United States several times. What, in your personal observation, have been the changes in the mood of the American people?" Perhaps you will start then, Nikolay Vladimirovich?

[Shishlin] Yes, especially since I have been there far less than Stanislav Nikolayevich. I think that a breakthrough is being made to the U.S. public, and what happened in Washington during that period in December when there were Soviet journalists, experts, and politicians on every channel of U.S. television, and when our comrades were bombarded with requests for interviews 24 hours a day, that is of course a real breakthrough. I am not trying to say that all the stereotypes of us formed over a long period of time in the U.S. public's mind have disintegrated or been shaken loose, but a breakthrough has taken place. I think that as far as the realization by the U.S. public of the new realities is concerned, we have witnessed some sort of turning point.

[Kondrashov] Well, what should I say? It is true I have been intensively observing the United States for a long time and continue to do so. What I would say is that the 7 years—and it will be a total of 8 years—that Reagan has been in power have been a period of the greatest conservatism in the United States. This has also been reflected in the moods of the public at large. The movement, as I have said, is now toward the center or even to the left, so to speak, in the relative meaning of that word as it exists in the U.S. political vocabulary.

The Americans are better disposed toward us and are more interested in us now, although it must be said that they are a nation which is more indifferent to the world around them than we are. But now, because of our active policy of restructuring, because of glasnost, and because more news is coming out of the Soviet Union, they are expressing more interest and more benevolent interest. In addition, they have, of course, been made willing to some extent by their own need for restructuring, so to speak, to experience more peaceful feelings toward us. It was during that trip, that working visit, when I among others covered the summit meeting, that I and my comrades in IZVESTIYA met Jim Wright, the speaker of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, who is essentially the key figure of the Democratic Party on Capitol Hill. What he said, among other things, in our conversation was that there really are many urgent and substantial economic problems in the United States which affect large masses of people, and that they need some sort of restructuring themselves. This too is something that to some extent brings us closer to the Americans, and the Americans closer to us.

[Kalyagin] You had some other questions, too.

[Kondrashov] I have this unexpected question from Mikhail Aleksandrovich Zhirkov, foreman of an assembly team in Moscow: "Wasn't Gorbachev afraid for his life in the United States when he got out of his car and went over to speak to the Americans?" Well, it's difficult for me to answer that question, but I do not think he was afraid. He felt the well-wishing attitude of the people who had gathered on that busy street corner in Washington when he unexpectedly stopped the car he was riding in, and of course the security guards knew what their duties were and carried them out. During that truly unexpected walkabout and contact with ordinary Americans which created a sensational and very cordial impression, Mikhail Sergeyevich obviously felt the need to speak directly to the people, albeit briefly.

Another question: "What do Americans themselves who are connected with the military-industrial complex, the workers, think about President Reagan's talks with Gorbachev? Do they think it is good or bad?"—Comrade Pronin from Moscow. Well, you have to proceed from the point that people differ. At the plant in Magna, Utah, for example, where the U.S. medium-range missiles were produced, when they stop producing those missiles some of the workers will probably scratch their heads and wonder where they are going to get their wages. The politicians connected with the state of Utah, the congressmen from that area, will also be taking some action of their own. So I do not rule out some people being dissatisfied. But politics concerns many millions of people, and the response we need to look for is at a more general level.

[Kalyagin] Here's a question which asks, there's a war going on between Iran and Iraq: Which side do we sympathize with more, Iran or Iraq?—Well, I think our sympathies are on on the side of peace between Iran and Iraq. A number of comrades ask about the attitudes of other countries to the problem of nuclear disarmament and to the accords that have been achieved. Viktor Ivanovich Maksimovskiy, of Moscow, for example, asks about Thatcher's policy regarding the reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe. Well, as one who has had occasion to take part in discussions with the British prime minister, I can say that unfortunately Thatcher's policy has changed little in this sphere, though she has declared that she supports 100% the treaty signed in Washington on the reduction of medium- and shorter-range missiles, while considering that nuclear weapons must be retained in Europe—her grounds for this being that they are almost a guarantee of peace, supposedly. Well, that's her point of view, which is fairly well-known. And again, when Mikhail Sergeyevich was recently in London and had a meeting with the British prime minister, this problem again came up; it seems the sides agreed to differ for the time being.

On to Comrade Skobelzhin of Pskov. He asks, what is China's attitude to these problems, and in particular to the treaty between the USSR and the United States. Who can...?

[Shishlin, interrupting] I can give a brief answer. The Chinese are reacting with approval to the medium-range and shorter-range missile treaty and they think it is a useful, although modest, step forward. That is the Chinese view. If I may, I will briefly answer a few questions: Why is it that such an important issue as that worked on by Comrade Gorbachev and Reagan...—what he's actually said here is "Comrades" Gorbachev and Reagan—was decided in Washington? In this case the choice of Washington was dictated by diplomatic protocol. According to diplomatic protocol it was the Soviet leader's turn to visit the United States. Here's another question: Why was Reagan's speech not published in full? A number of his statements on the zero option were missing from it. Somehow I'm not convinced of that. At least in Washington, in the broadcasts of our Central Television, which we could see in Washington, Reagan's speeches were made public in full without any cuts. Another question, from Aleksandr Sergeyevich Zakharov: During the time of Khrushchev there was a reduction in the armed forces. How does that reduction compare with the reduction that is now being made? Well, Nikolay Fedorovich may correct me, but I think that numerically speaking, the reduction by one third that was carried out during the time of Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev was, of course, on a larger scale. But from the point of view of the military potential of the nuclear missile systems that are being eliminated, there is absolutely no comparison...

[Chervov, interrupting] It's the first time that has been done.

[Shishlin] No comparison. There wasn't anything like that. And another question, taking them as they come. A question from Tbilisi: What is the economic side to the

politiical result in Washington, and roughly what is the sum of money that will be released by the signing of that treaty? Well, I think that for the time being it is not possible to name any sum that will be released as a result of eliminating the medium- and shorter-range missiles. Money will now be needed to eliminate them. Is that right, Nikolay Fedorovich?

[Chervov] That's right.

[Shishlin] Because in order to eliminate them, some money has to be spent.

[Chervov] Of course. A lot of money will be spent. Things won't eliminate themselves of their own accord!

[Shishlin] That's right! But the economic side of the Washington meeting itself is modest. The Soviet-U.S. statement says that the parties will promote the development of economic cooperation, but for the time being there are many obstacles on the U.S. side, and we, too, have our own difficulties and our own hindrances, although the actual aim of developing economic cooperation has been set.

[Chervov] I will answer a number of questions; I have a lot here.

[Kalyagin] Yes, but I wanted first to ask you a question from Vasiliy Ivanovich Kostyuchenko from Zelenograd. He says: "We have already begun the withdrawal of our missiles from the GDR and Czechoslovakia." I do not know whether that is right or not, but that is what he writes.

[Chervov] Yes, yes.

[Kalyagin] He goes on: "We are supposed to be doing that until March. If the treaty is not ratified, are we going to put them back again?"

[Chefvov] Well, we have not as yet begun the withdrawal. [laughter] Vasiliy Ivanovich is, of course, somewhat anticipating events. The question of the missiles in Czechoslovakia and the GDR has yet to be resolved. And so, it is early to speak about this.

I have several questions which would be worth answering. Comrade Yeremeyev, a Moscow engineer, asks whether, once the nuclear warheads have been removed, they could be used in the national economy. That is, could they be used with peaceful intent? In accordance with the treaty, the fissile material is to be extracted from the warheads for use as the parties see fit. In the Soviet Union, this includes in the interests of the national economy, naturally, after the necessary processing of this fissile material.

Miron Mironovich Khodov a construction engineer from Moscow, says: "I read that talks are being held on nuclear weapons. Why are hydrogen weapons left aside?" They are not being left aside. They are also a subject for the talks on nuclear and space arms.

"If we desire peace, then why do we continue with underground explosions of nuclear weapons?" asks Boris Dmitriyevich Bogdanov, an engineer from Volgograd. Why are we continuing to improve nuclear weapons, when there are enough stockpiled to destroy all life on earth six times over? Esteemed Boris Dmitriyevich, I would direct that question at the U.S. side; but since you ask me, I am obliged to reply. For a year and half we did not carry out nuclear explosions and observed a unilateral moratorium. During this time, the buildup of nuclear explosions continued at the U.S. testing ground in Nevada. In fact, that 18-month moratorium was, as it happens, the reasonable sufficient limit to which we could go. Beyond it there could have been damage to our security, because nuclear explosions are for durability and several other tasks are tackled. Therefore, this issue must be tackled on a bilateral basis, at any rate with the U.S. side. You know from the statement of the Soviet Government, of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, that we are prepared to stop nuclear testing any day at any time, even today, just so long as the U.S. side does likewise. It would not be expedient to start another unilateral moratorium now, when the nuclear explosions by the United States are intensifying.

What about the French Pluton missiles, which are not subject to reduction, even though they belong to U.S. allies? We are now conducting...our position at the talks is that all tactical nuclear weapons, including the offensive operational aircraft which carry nuclear weapons, missiles, and atomic artillery, should be viewed and reduced simultaneously with the reduction in the armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe—as a package. That is our standpoint at the Vienna meeting to draw up a mandate for future European talks from the Atlantic to the Urals.

"How can there be any agreement to reduce missiles when the Reagan administration has no intention of renouncing SDI? asks Vladimir Nikolayevich Nikolayevich. In Washington the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States agreed to resolve the issue of reducing strategic offensive weapons in strict observance with the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was adopted in 1972. Among other things, this relates to issues of research, development, and, where necessary, testing, as permitted by the ABM Treaty. If the parties adhere rigidly to the joint Soviet-U.S. statement, then your question will be answered. Of course, only the observance of the ABM Treaty will ensure a reduction in strategic offensive weapons.

Comrade Potemkin from Moscow and Comrade Nina Georgiyevna Melykh from Rostov-na-Donu, too—ask: Why was it necessary to deploy medium-range missiles

and provoke the United States to deploy missiles in Europe? I will answer you briefly, with an excursion into history. We have already examined this question on more than one occasion. In the first place, on our side the modernization of nuclear arms was in progress. Everything gets old and this modernization did not upset the military equilibrium. I recall a statement by former Chancellor Schmidt, who was asked whether the deployment of Soviet SS-20 missiles violated the military balance—this was in January 1981, after the double zero option had been adopted. Chancellor Schmidt said: No, it does not upset the military balance. It is possible that this balance could be upset in the future. So I am firmly convinced that, irrespective of whether we had deployed our SS-20 missiles or had not, all the same the modernization of nuclear missiles—that is, the deployment of U.S. 'Pershing' and cruise missiles in Europe—would have come about regardless.

[Kalyagin] I'm sorry Nikolay Fedorovich, I have to interrupt you because our time is running out, and I'd like to go over to Stanislav Nikolayevich for 1 minute for a very brief reply.

[Kondrashov] Comrade Orlov, a student from Moscow, asks whether and how the human rights issue was raised at the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting. Unfortunately, it's impossible to give a very brief answer, but the United States is demanding free emigration. We are in favor of, and are allowing more people out in those legitimate cases of family reunion and other cases which are, so to speak, covered by international law. But this issue is being exploited for speculative purposes to put pressure on the Soviet Union and, to a certain extent, in order to compromise our policy, in particular by manipulating various kinds of figures. According to authentic data however, our official data, there are only around 200, or slightly over 200 people, now waiting for visas and who have so far been refused since they possess military or state secrets. But the United States is trying to make out that there are hundreds of thousands of people in that position. Regarding this, Mikhail Sergeyevich said during his news conference that he had stated to President Reagan "you are not a prosecutor and I, so to speak, am not a defendant, and we shall not conduct this discussion on unequal terms."

[Kalyagin] Right, thank you Stanislav Nikolayevich. Unfortunately, our time is running out. There is less than 1 minute left, so I will sum up in a couple of words. It seems to me that the numerous questions we have received today indicate a great interest on the part of our viewers and our people in the questions raised today, and, of course, we have been unable to cover them exhaustively today. I think we will come back to them in a later edition of the "Repercussions" program and once again, dear viewers, I promise that your questions will not go without attention. We will study them closely. I would like to thank you for putting so much into today's program, and also the participants in our broadcast for their interesting answers.

[Shishlin] And a Happy New Year!

[Kalyagin] Yes, of course. Since this is the last edition of Repercussions this year, allow me to seize the opportunity, on behalf of all the program participants and on behalf of all who put this program on the air, to congratulate you, dear viewers, on the coming New Year and wish you happiness and peaceful skies. See you on the air next year!

United States & Canada

PRAVDA Addresses Chances of INF Ratification

PM281723 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Linnik dispatch under the rubric "After the Washington Meeting": "A Time of Interpretation"]

[Excerpts] New York, Dec—[Passage omitted] Now, as a result of restructuring, the authority and prestige of the USSR in the eyes of public opinion in East and West has increased colossally. Largely thanks to the inexorable and salutary logic of glasnost and democratization in our country we have knocked from our opponents' hands the kind of "trump cards" which were impossible to remove before. In the new conditions it is proving increasingly difficult for the right-wing forces in the United States to maintain the former anti-Soviet stereotypes in U.S. public opinion, stereotypes such as the image of the "evil empire," the myth of the "military threat" from the USSR, and so forth.

The new social, economic, and psychological realities prevailing in the United States must also be seen as a factor of considerable importance in determining the current approach to the development of Soviet-U.S. relations. The desire to normalize relations between the USSR and the United States is, according to opinion polls carried out during the past year, shared by between 80 and 95% of Americans. This was bound to affect the mood and stance of the powers that be. [passage omitted]

In the final analysis, the evolution of the U.S. position as regards the agreement on medium- and shorter-range missiles was determined by the combination of a multitude of political, military, and socioeconomic factors.

However, even in these circumstances it would be simplistic to imagine that the road to the next meeting in Moscow will be as straight as the Nevskiy Prospekt. It is obvious right now that post-Reykjavik history is repeating itself. There is evidence of attempts to put forward a personal interpretation—which is frequently at variance with reality—of both the course of the Washington talks and the essence of the understanding that was reached as a result of these talks. This applies first and foremost to the treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles that was signed.

The Soviets have accepted my "disarmingly simple option"—zero in Europe—the President declared even at the agreement's signing ceremony. But was this really the case? "Zero" in Europe—that is, the elimination of the SS-20 missiles in exchange for the nonsiting of the Pershing and cruise missiles—was placed on the negotiating table primarily to pacify popular protests against the well-known NATO "arms upgrading" decision which had assumed a vast scale in West Europe, and it was based mainly on the calculation that the Soviet Union would reject it. At the time this calculation proved to be correct.

In order to put the brakes on the accelerating flywheel of the nuclear arms race it was necessary for our side to put forward the concept of the new political thinking and to display uncommon courage and flexibility of political approach. It was no accident that the consent to the "zero option" caught NATO unawares.

Washington tried to use West Europe in every way in order to torpedo the agreement. Farfetched fears were fostered about the "isolation" of West Europe from the United States in questions of security and about the "collapse" of the entire NATO defense concept. Reservations were raised about operational-tactical missiles, but they were swept away by our proposal for a "double-zero" under which both medium- and shorter-range missiles would be eliminated.

There is another major factor that has to be taken into account in order to understand the postsummit mood in Washigton, especially as regards the question of strategic offensive arms. Clearly in an effort to eliminate the skepticism of Congress, which has applied the brakes to the "Star Wars" test program, the President is claiming that, as he puts it, the Russians have agreed that SDI will not present an obstacle at the next stage, that is, the 50% reduction in the Soviet and U.S. strategic nuclear arsenals. Naturally, the Soviet Union has no intention of agreeing to any such thing.

Another obstacle is also being raised by declaring that further progress in the sphere of nuclear arms control is impossible without the elimination of the "imbalances" between NATO and the Warsaw Pact in conventional and chemical weapons.

All this involuntarily makes you think that, following the signing of the treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles, Washington is afraid of further steps in arms reduction and is already looking for convenient ways of backtracking at the next stage. It appears that the President is equally afraid of applause from liberal circles and the angry reaction of the right-wing forces to the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles. Therefore it is difficult to understand what, in his current utterances, is due to maneuvering in response to an immediate domestic political situation which is new to him, and what is based on real policy.

The right-wing forces, having lost the present round, are regrouping to get their revenge during the next round. Judging by appearances, they will try to oppose the treaty at the ratification stage. In any case, right now, immediately after the meeting, sensational claims citing a Nicaraguan deserter about a sharp increase in Soviet arms deliveries to Nicaragua are being put about. All this is very reminiscent of the unexpected "discovery" of a

Soviet brigade in Cuba during the ratification of the SALT II Treaty in 1979. The techniques remain the same because they originate in the same circles.

The ratification of the treaty by the Senate may also be complicated by the fact that, just as in the case of SALT II, it coicides with the height of the presidential election campaign, which is always an extremely unpredictable period in U.S. politics. Nonetheless, most observers here agree that the opponents of the agreement will not succeed in either sinking the treaty or attaching "killer-amendments" to it which would force the President to renegotiate.

In short, further progress along the road of arms reduction is possible, but it will require a constructive approach, uncommon courage and boldness, and considerable political skill from the White House. No matter how paradoxical this may sound, it is these qualities which the Reagan administration will have to display if it wants to reflect the will of the majority of its people.

Biryukov Hits Reagan Speech on Afghanistan

LD281443 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1237 GMT 28 Dec 87

["Afghanistan: Who Is Hindering Settlement?"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Dec (TASS)—TASS Political Observer Askold Biryukov writes:

U.S. President Reagan on Sunday issued another appeal to the Soviet Union for a "rapid and conclusive withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan." "May 1988 be a year of action," he stated in this connection.

The U.S. President timed his statement to coincide with the anniversary of the introduction into Afghanistan of a limited contingent of Soviet troops at the request of that country's government. Reagan called it "an unprovoked and scandalous insult to human proprieties and international law." I do not know who wrote the text of the President's statement but the claim to the role "offended innocence" is clearly not suited to the event which he chose for the theme of his address.

The history of the introduction of Soviet troops into Afghanistan is no secret for anyone today. It took place in response to repeated requests from the Afghan leadership at a time when the actions of the forces of reaction and imperialism had created a real threat not only to the gains of the April Revolution of 1978 but also to the very existence of an independent Afghan State.

Since the revolution, the organization, financing, and deliveries of arms to the rebels by the United States and some other states have been increasing. Moreover, it is precisely now when the idea of national reconciliation is being put into practice in Afghanistan and when the process of political settlement is gaining strength that the deliveries of U.S. arms to the rebels have reached an apogee. Along with anti-aircraft 'Stinger' missiles, which have been used against civilian aircraft more than once, deliveries of long-range mortars are being organized to the rebels; their use is bound to result in even greater casualties among the peaceful population of Afghanistan.

What is this if not an attempt to carry on stoking or fueling the war in Afghanistan even more? In light of such activity, does not the U.S. President's call to make 1988 'a year of action' sound hypocritical? The U.S. Administration should address such a call to itself first because its assurances regarding its striving for "settling through talks" are not only at variance with its real actions but are clearly disproved by these actions.

The impression is that the administration is against any settlement at all. It is precisely this, one should think, that explains the attempts of its representatives to distance themselves from the agreements that have already been achieved in Geneva and from the understanding of the fact that the withdrawal of the Soviet contingent and stopping the deliveries and financing of U.S. aid to the rebels are interconnected things. But to demand that the opposite side fulfills its decisions while refusing to fulfill its own obligations can hardly be called a serious attitude.

The Soviet Union remains faithful to its decision on withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan. The specific time has been named too—12 months. The time can be even shorter. But a reduction of time depends precisely on Washington and its adherence to the agreements that have been achieved, but mainly on its actions. If Washington really wants 1988 to be a year of actions, then let it be so! A positive answer from the Soviet side will not be held up.

Charikov Comments

LD282258 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 28 Dec 87

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Boris Andrianov; Igor Charikov commentary]

[Text] In recent days, including today, the Western mass media have been ranting with particular zeal regarding the situation in and around Afghanistan. This vigor, if you will, whose tone is set by various radio stations, is manifestly timed to coincide—and they do not conceal this—with the introduction of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan in December 1979 at the request of the government of that country. It is not difficult to guess the content and drift of the material of Western newspapers and radio broadcasts. They don't mention a word about the prospects of a settlement, or about peace and tranquillity for the Afghan people, or about the policy of national reconciliation. On the contrary, in a situation when paths to a solution, a political solution, to the complex situation are being mapped out,

the articles and commentaries of U.S., British and West German authors are aimed at whipping up hostility toward the Soviet Union and people's power in Afghanistan. They aspire to distort the essence of the processes under way in Afghanistan, and of the efforts being undertaken on the foreign policy front by our country.

This noisy campaign has also been joined by the voice of U.S. President Reagan, who made a special statement last Sunday. I have invited to the studio my colleague, Igor Charikov, so that he can comment on this statement and the anti-Afghan propaganda campaign.

[Charikov] I have listened carefully to your introduction, and I would like to begin with one small elaboration. They are currently talking about the policy of national reconciliation in the West, but in a very peculiar way. British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe called it a demand for capitulation. It is not, of course, for me to judge the political outlook of the top British diplomat, but to consider the appeals of the Afghan leadership to the rebels—appeals, by the way, which are meeting with understanding and a positive response among them—a demand for capitulation, you will agree, is just as ridiculous as considering the capitulationism of his colleague Chamberlain in Munich nearly half a century ago as a peace-making action. But good luck to him.

To be frank, I am also rather surprised by the tone of the statement by President Reagan. Its text, by the way, has been diligently repeated by the Voice of America on their radio waves. Reagan permitted himself to call the introduction of the limited contingent of Soviet forces into Afghanistan a flagrant insult to human decencies, and so forth. Such turns of phrase could be ignored if they were uttered by, let's say, a commentator of that same Voice of America. It would appear that the U.S. President doesn't know the sequence of events of 1979, when the United States itself, soon after the April Revolution in Afghanistan, had created a real threat to the existence of an independent Afghan state and was striving to destroy it. The interference of the imperialist forces, headed by the United States, began before the Government of Afghanistan appealed to its neighbor for help in a difficult hour for the people. This request fully meets the provisions of Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The situation that has developed is indeed complex. But it has been growing increasingly complex as the reactionary forces in the United States demand from Congress and the White House more and more supplies of arms and equipment for the counterrevolutionary rebels, whom the Afghan people themselves have disdainfully called dushman; this, in Dari, Pashto, and other languages, means enemy. It is not freedom fighters that the U.S. leaders have ended up with, but enemies. The so-called fighters and patriots live on money from across the ocean in the comfort of luxurious villas in neighboring Pakistan, settling accounts with their generous benefactors with the lives of their hoodwinked compatriots.

Incidentally, they are becoming fewer. According to BAKHTAR, as a result of the national reconciliation policy more than 115,000 people have already returned to their homeland, that is to Afghanistan, 35,000 former dushmans have laid down their arms, moreover voluntarily, and talks are under way with 1,100 armed groups. These are the results of the activities of people's power, and they have become a thorn in the flesh of those who, it turns out, have an interest in continued sabotage and terrorist activity as a counterweight to appeals for a constructive national dialogue and cooperation.

In all 14 peace-loving initiatives have been made by the Afghan Government, and in reply there are groundless refusals, and financial aid to the loyal rebels is stepped up. Moreover, they have started supplying them with the most up-to-date weapons, equipped with electronic devices, and with Stinger missiles, with which the dushmans, without consulting with the U.S. President who is so fervently concerned about human decencies, shoot down civilian aircraft. Moreover, the newspapers write, the United States is organizing supplies of long-range mortars. In short, despite the talks being conducted through UN mediation, Washington is continuing to count on inflaming the war and on a military solution to the conflict.

The inflammatory propaganda on the pages of the press and on the radio waves is conducted in parallel. You get the impression that the United States doesn't want a settlement at all. The U.S. leaders are trying to avoid the Geneva accords, and the simple truth that the withdrawal of the Soviet contingent—which was discussed, by the way, at the summit meeting in Washington—is interconnected with the cessation of U.S. supplies to the dushmans. Isn't it their statements, like that of President Reagan, that incite the bourgeois mass media to further escalation of the hostile hysteria around Afghanistan? Indeed, you can't avoid the idea of suggesting to Western journalists that they announce a moratorium on slander and fabrications with regard to Afghanistan.

Reaction to Foreign Ministry Statement on CW

LD291209 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0948 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Washington, 29 Dec—TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev reports: At a briefing held at the U.S. State Department, its official spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley refused to comment on a USSR Foreign Ministry statement of 26 December in which it was emphasized that the United States had undertaken an action militaristic in nature, despite significant progress at the talks being held in Geneva on a complete and universal ban on and the destruction of chemical weapons. This progress actually had brought closer the goal of liberating mankind from the chemical threat. Oakley alluded to the fact that State Department had "prepared a reply to that," but one would be able to find out about it later on by "checking with the press section."

But when the TASS correspondent telephoned the State Department press section, he was read out a brief oral statement which mentioned not a word about the U.S. program for production of binary weapons. Instead of giving a reply to the point, the official spokesman of the U.S. foreign policy department again repeated the unproven claims that allegedly "the Soviet Union possesses the biggest reserves of chemical weapons in the world." Such statements have long been used by official Washington to justify the massive program of "chemical rearmament" of the United States, drafted under the present administration.

The statement by the U.S. foreign policy department also emphasizes the importance of solving the problem of liberating mankind from the chemical threat "by means of a detailed exchange of information and strict verification of the conditions of an effective international convention banning chemical weapons," which is being discussed at the disarmament conference in Geneva. Here the State Department spokesman gave an affirmative answer to the question of "whether the United States had declared the dimensions of its own store of chemical weapons," but declined to give any specific data. Thus, the United States' practical actions, above all the start of serial production of binary weapons, do not in any way tally with the official statements and instead demonstrate the reverse. [sentence as received]

Accusations on TASS Report 'Unfounded'

LD291001 Moscow TASS in English 0946 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Washington December 29 TASS—First come unfounded accusations and only then facts are checked. It is according to this principle that the U.S. State Department seemed to be acting in recently accusing TASS of "inaccurately" reporting on the visit to the USSR of a delegation of American experts. The latter had been invited to inspect in the areas of Gomel and Moscow the radar vans named according to U.S. terminology "Pawn Shop" and separate elements of the radar station "Flat Twin" which were allegedly in breach of the provisions of the ABM Treaty. Considering the American side's concern, the Soviet Union proposed that the U.S. experts inspect in place the objects, which was done on December 20-22 and about which TASS reported.

On December 24, Phyllis Oakley, spokeswoman for the State Department, told the briefing that "TASS simply is not accurate" and that the American experts had not drawn any ultimate conclusions but were only busy preparing their report. Meanwhile, the TASS report made no mention of a conclusion by the American experts, which they were naturally to draw themselves.

In that connection a TASS correspondent asked Phyllis Oakley at a briefing on December 28 whether she had really read the TASS report from Moscow before making accusations against the Soviet news agency. It was quite a natural question, considering especially what attention is devoted now to the problems involved in the verification of the agreements on arms control and the question of building up confidence between the USSR and the USA as a whole. The response was very strange. "We had simply seen the report—a wire service report on the TASS article. And I would certainly be happy to go back and look at that and look at the whole report, if you think that what we said was not completely correct."

Question: "You are saying that you accuse TASS without actually reading the report?"

"I have said that we had seen a report of a TASS statement. And that's what we had seen," Phyllis Oakley said. She stressed that she would be happy to go back and check on it. Meanwhile, the accusation has already been made and the seeds of distrust had already been sown. This was in a large measure the responsibility of the U.S. State Department, which relied itself on information of the Western news agencies.

China

PRC Protests U.S. Congress Stance on Tibet

LD271559 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Beijing December 27 TASS—The commissions for the affairs of nationalities and foreign affairs of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, the supreme legislative body of the country, have issued a joint statement expressing a strong protest against the interference of U.S. Congress in the internal affairs of China on the "Tibet problem". The protest made was in connection with the adoption by the House of Representatives and the Senate of U.S. Congress of an amendment to the resolution on the "violation" by the People's Republic of China of human rights in Tibet.

The amendment grossly distorted the history of the Tibetan autonomous district of China and contained slanderous attacks on the Government and people of China, said the statement of the commissions of the National People's Congress. It pointed out that under the pretext of the protection of human rights U.S. lawmakers grossly interfered in the international affairs of China. Tibet is an inseparable part of Chinese territory, and the Tibetan national is a member of a big family of nations inhabiting the People's Republic of China. The statement refuted allegations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of U.S. Congress to the effect that many Tibetans had been put into prison and killed for upholding their political and religious convictions. According to the statement this is an outright lie and falsehood.

The statement refuted as well the assertion of U.S. lawmakers that over one million people had died in Tibet from 1959 to 1979. It described as false and groundless accusations of U.S. Congress against China concerning the transfer of numerous Chinese of the Han

nationality to Tibet. Accoridng to the statement, at present Han Chinese account for only 3.5 per cent of the population of the Tibetan autonomous district.

Gross interference of U.S. Congress in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China insults the national feelings of the Chinese people and undermines Sino-American relations, the statement emphasized.

Netherlands' Two China Policy Discussed
OW271319 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The submarine built by the Netherlands for Taiwan's armed forces has entered Taiwan's Gaoxiong Harbor. In this connection, our station commentator Sahov writes:

The Taiwan authorities held a solemn ceremony for the arrival of this submarine. Attending this ceremony were the commander of the naval force in Taiwan, officials of the Taiwan Government as well as foreign news reporters. Taiwan officials warmly shook hands and congratulated each other. According to a report, the second submarine will arrive in Taiwan between May and June next year. Officials in Taiwan have a good reason to be jubilant Following the United States, the Netherlands has openly shown its support of the two-China policy. It is known to all that China's condition to establish diplomatic ties with the Netherlands was that the latter must recognize Taiwan as an inalienable part of China. In order to show that it has severed political, economic and military ties with Taiwan, the Netherlands has repeatedly issued statements in this connection just like the United States did. However, statements are statements. The actual policy is reflected by facts. The agreement between the Netherlands and Taiwan on building two submarines for Taiwan's armed forces reflects such actual policy. For this, the Chinese Government had lodged a strong protest and even lowered the level of its diplomatic relations with the Netherlands, demanding that this illegal transaction be abolished. However, the Netherlands Government continued building the submarines, and followed the examples set by Washington. In disregard of its statement that it will reduce and even completely suspend the military cooperation between the United States and Taiwan, Washington has supplied Taiwan with US$600 to 700 million worth of modern weaponry every year. The Netherlands has followed suit. It must be pointed out that in addition to the United States and the Netherlands, other NATO nations have also advocated the two-China policy. According to newspaper reports, weapons of various types have been shipped to Taiwan by France, West Germany, Italy and other nations. This is the result in implementing their imperialist policy aimed at interfering with the internal affairs of a sovereign country.

Nuclear-Free Southeast Asia Activities Noted
OW290431 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Shakov commentary]

[Text] On 22 December, Australian parliamentarians, who are antiwar activists, protested U.S. warships' entry into the Sydney Harbor. They issued a statement demanding the government reexamine its attitude to port calls by nuclear-powered warships and warships carrying nuclear weapons. Shakov, a commentator of this station, has the following comments on the event:

The antiwar and antinuclear movements in the Asian-Pacific nations have reached an unprecedented scale. Under the influence of these movements, life in this region is undergoing a profound and favorable change. The South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty has become effective. The governments of the Soviet Union and China, unlike those of the United States, Britain, and France, have affixed their signatures to the treaty.

The ASEAN nations have proposed the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia. Their leaders said during the Manila conference that they would devote themselves to realizing this aspiration. As everyone knows, the Soviet Union and China support the proposal, while Washington officials describe it as dangerous and immoral. We would like to point out that New Zealand also has legislation prohibiting warships with nuclear weapons from entering its ports. The Philippine Constitution stipulates, in explicit terms, that the country opposes nuclear arms.

The United States has taken reprisals against these countries. It has expelled New Zealand from the ANZUS Pact and taken various sanctions against the Philppines. Washington will also boycott the Philippines' antinuclear tendencies. However, the antinuclear sentiments in the Asian-Pacific region remain intense, and their influence is becoming greater. The people of India, Japan, Indonesia, and many other countries advocate elimination of the nuclear threat.

The INF Treaty signed recently between the Soviet Union and the United States has again promoted the movement. This is the first time in Asian history that the region can see a reduction of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles, lessening of military confrontation, and expansion of peaceful cooperation. The peace-loving people of the Asian-Pacific Region approve the INF Treaty. They are redoubling their efforts to prevent war and frustrate new schemes of militarist forces. They are stopping these forces from conducting a new round of the arms race to make up for the strength lost after the elimination of nuclear missiles. The peoples ofin the Soviet Union, China,and other peace-loving countries fully support their efforts.

Upcoming Sihanouk-Hun Sen Talks Discussed

OW290449 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Mitin commentary]

[Text] According to an SPK report, an agreement has been reached that Hun Sen, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, and Sihanouk, a noted activist of the Cambodian opposition, will begin their second round of talks on 27 January 1988. Station observer Mitin comments on this event as follows:

Their first round of talks was held on 2-4 December in a small hotel near Paris. Contrary to skeptics' views, gratifying results were achieved in the first round of talks. For example, both Sihanouk and Hun Sen held that the Cambodian issue can be settled only by peaceful means and through direct and fair negotiations by the conflicting parties.

Is this contradictory to the policy of national conciliation declared by Cambodia in August of this year?

There is no principled difference between them. Moreover, The Kampuchean Government first proposed to hold talks with the Cambodian opposition, no matter what political views and positions they held. The only exception is that Phnom Penh will have no dealings with Pol Pot and his trusted followers, who have committed monstrous crimes in Cambodia.

It can be seen from this that the idea of peaceful and fair dialogue is materializing. In your opinion, what results will Hun Sen and Sihanouk be able to achieve in their second round of talks?

It is not very easy to predict. But one thing is clear: (?the confrontation is turning into a dialogue), as Chinese media have put it. The most important thing is that the dialogue has started. What is encouraging is that the talks between Hun Sen and Sihanouk received favorable comments from ASEAN leaders. We hope the PRC will make a positive contribution to the peaceful settlement of the Cambodian issue and thus to the elimination of danger in Indochina.

Son Sann Part in Talks

OW290523 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Federov commentary]

[Text] According to a news dispatch from Bangkok, Son Sann, a leader of the three Khmer opposition factions is, in principle, not opposed to the participation in the negotiations to be held by Hun Sen, head of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and Prince Sihanouk. The only condition put forward by Son Sann is that, after his participation in the negotiations, the question of Vietnamese troops' withdrawal from Cambodia be resolved as early as possible. Our station observer Federov has the following comments on this:

We have to point out that a new positive factor has appeared in Mr Son Sann's stand. While only supporting Prince Sihanouk's decision to hold the talks on the eve of the first round between Hun Sen and the prince, the prime minister of (?the former Cambodian military regime) has now expressed his willingness to participate in the talks himself. This is encouraging. Undoubtedly, the agreement reached at the first round of talks held in Fere-en-Tardenois had some influence on Son Sann. Here we refer to views shared by both sides: First, the Cambodian conflict must be settled with a political solution. Second, the Cambodian issue must be settled by the Cambodian people themselves through negotiations between the combatants with a view to putting an end to the war. Such an agreement must be accepted. Only those stubbornly opposing settlement through negotiations and standing for continuing fratricide, regardless of the Cambodian people's interests, would refuse to accept it. We hope that Son Sann is no such person. Meanwhile, however, there is an impression that Son Sann is not completely free in his words and deeds. Otherwise, how could he devote so much attention to the issue of Vietnamese volunteer troops remaining in Cambodia, which is, in fact, one of the major issues to be settled through negotiations? As can be seen, it is Pol Pot and his foreign supporters who are exerting pressure on Son Sann.

As a matter of fact, it is quite clear that there are no insurmountable obstacles to the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. The Vietnamese volunteer troops entered Cambodia at the request of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The governments of the two countries announced long ago that the Vietnamese troops will be completely withdrawn by early 1990. The time schedule may be earlier if the Khmer opposition factions so desire. What is required is an agreement on the main contents of the national reconciliation program and the cessation of armed provocations against the Cambodian people. It is to discuss all this that Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk have invited Mr Son Sann to participate in the next round of talks, scheduled to be held on 27 January in France.

Fedorov Comments Further

OW221358 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Fedorov commentary]

[Text] The Politburo of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party called the recent meeting between Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk an event of important historical significance. After having heard Hun Sen's

report, the Politburo pointed out that this meeting in France has eased the Cambodian situation. In this regard, station commentator Fedorov writes as follows:

The main achievement of the Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting is the agreement reached through consultation on the basic principles for political settlement of the Cambodian issue. In the nine years of the country's liberation after the Pol Pot regime was overthrown, the two Cambodian sides have sat down for talks for the first time.

Sihanouk said: Discussion of the main aspects of the Cambodian issue was conducted in a friendly atmosphere of unity. After comparing the standpoints of both sides, the meeting decided on relevant measures for fairest solution of this issue. I believe the main point of the agreement is that the Cambodian issue cannot be settled by military means. There is only one solution, namely, political means. All other means will lead only to a deadlock in the mediation.

Hun Sen and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk also agreed that all matters related to Cambodia's internal affairs should be solved by the Cambodian people themselves. Under the circumstances, it was completely logical to call on all other opposition groups of both sides to participate in future talks on national reconciliation. This call was highly praised by the world, especially by the neighboring ASEAN countries.

The last point agreed upon at the meeting in France was that another meeting will be held again in Fere-en-Tardenois near Paris in January 1988.

The possibility of rapid development of the national reconciliation cause, in which all conflicting parties have taken part, has emerged as a result of the new political situation following the Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting. This, incidentally, has been pointed out by the resolutions of the third ASEAN summit, which ended just recently in Manila.

However, some difficulties cropped up in the course of last week's mediation. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk announced that if the other two opposition groups—namely, the Khmer Rouge and former Prime Minister Son Sann—are excluded from all future talks, he will not take part in talks either.

To this, People's Kampuchea made a swift and flexible response. In his letter to the Cambodian people, PRK Government leader Hun Sen pointed out that he understood Sihanouk's motive. Prime Minister Hun Sen stressed that Cambodia accepted the proposal for bilateral or multilateral talks provided that it was for the purpose of seeking a means for reasonable settlement of the Cambodian issue.

According to the latest information, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has changed his own standpoint and expressed willingness to continue the bilateral talks.

Accord Signed on Khabarovsk-Harbin Flights

OW270053 Moscow in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The Soviet Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Civil Aviation Administration of China have reached an accord in Khabarovsk to open new air services between Khabarovsk, a city in the far eastern part of the USSR, and Harbin, the largest city in northeast China.

The regular flight services, which will begin next year, will be provided by Soviet and Chinese crews alternately.

According to Wang Guixiang, head of the PRC delegation, the prospects for aviation cooperation between the two countries are bright. He told TASS that the new air services will further promote trade and economic and cultural relations between the far eastern parts of the USSR and their adjacent Chinese provinces. In recent years, he said, such relations have been noticeably strengthened.

Government Trade Delegation Departs for PRC

OW271301 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] A Soviet Government trade delegation left Moscow on 23 December for Beijing to sign the 1988 USSR-China trade protocol. The delegation is headed by Bavrin, vice minister of foreign trade.

In an interview with Moscow Radio, an official of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade said: According to the protocol, the variety of barter as well as trade volume will be increased. Soviet-Chinese trade has developed on a mutually beneficial basis. The Soviet Union exports to China nonferrous and ferrous metals, lumber, machinery products, and power equipment. Chinese exports include frozen meat, cannery, soybeans, cotton cloth, textile, and other light industrial products. In the past 5 years, bilateral trade volume has increased 10 fold.

Further Report

LD241055 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] The Soviet Union and China plan to increase their trade by nearly one quarter next year. The plans were disclosed by officials in Moscow in connection with the forthcoming signing in Beijing of a protocol on trade between the two countries for 1988.

More on Trade Protocol

LD281401 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] A protocol on trade turnover and payments between the USSR and the PRC for 1988 was signed in Beijing today. The document provides for a considerable increase in mutual goods deliveries in comparison to 1987. The Soviet Union will supply China with power

industry equipment, railway rolling-stock, motor vehicles and aviation technology, ferrous and nonferrous metals, fertilizers, petroleum products, and other products of Soviet industry. China will deliver to the USSR a wide range of light and textile industry and engineering products, chemical goods, wolfram concentrate, fluorspar, magnesite clinker, and agricultural produce.

Negotiations Held on 1988 Barter Trade

OW270725 Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1200 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] The Soviet and Chinese delegations held negotiations in Beijing on signing a protocol for next year's barter trade. They plan to increase the trade volume by a quarter. According to experts' estimates, the trade volume will be close to 2 billion rubles. Soviet exports of machinery and equipment will increase to a remarkable extent. China will purchase from the Soviet Union power plant equipment, certain modern technological installations, and technologies and equipment for metallurgical, light, and other industries.

Experts Discuss First Joint Enterprise

OW270100 Moscow in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Soviet and Chinese experts have met in Beijing to discuss construction of their first joint industrial enterprise. The enterprise, which will be located in the Uzbek Republic, will produce necessities for daily use.

Meanwhile, while expanding Soviet technical assistance to China, the USSR and China have signed a new contract under which the USSR will help China modernize its light industry and petrochemical industry.

Bilateral Cooperation Protocols Signed

Fishery Cooperation

OW240513 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0600 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] A Chinese fishery delegation wound up its visit to the Soviet Union after signing a protocol on the expansion of cooperation. During talks in Moscow and during its visits to various Soviet cities, the delegation paid particular attention to the form and orientation of long-term cooperation and to the prospects for establishing joint ventures.

Both sides were satisfied with the results of the talks, as was said by Comrade Kudryavtsev, Soviet deputy minister of the fish industry, and by Comrade Tu Fengjun, director of the Aquatic Products Bureau under the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

During their 2-week stay, the Chinese guests visited Moscow, Leningrad and Tashkent. In Leningrad, they visited some scientific research organizations. In Tashkent, they visited the (Baleikeshi) Corporation, which is the first Soviet enterprise to use Chinese methods in fish breeding.

Cultural Ties for 1988-1990

LD242214 Moscow TASS in English 1751 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Beijing December 24 TASS—TASS correspondent Grigoriy Arslanov reports:

Talks have come to a close here on coordinating an intergovernmental plan of cultural cooperation between the USSR and the People's Republic of China for 1988-1990.

The plan provides for a further development of relations between the two countries in the sphere of culture, science, education, sport and tourism. In the 1988-1990 period the ballet company of the Bolshoy Theatre, the Kossak chorus of the Kuban region and the National Circus of the USSR will tour China. A number of fine arts exhibitions will be held.

In its turn, the Soviet Union will be visited by well-known music and dance groups and soloists of the people's Republic of China. Interesting Chinese exhibitions will be organized.

Sports Protocol

LD242146 Moscow TASS in English 2118 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Beijing December 24 TASS—A ceremony of the signing of a protocol on sports cooperation between the USSR and the People's Republic of China for 1988 was held here today. It was signed by A.P. Lukash, deputy chairman of the USSR Sports Committee and He Zhenliang, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports of China.

A delegation of the USSR Sports Committee staying in China on a visit held useful and constructive talks with heads of the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports of the People's Republic of China on questions connected with a further development and expansion of the spheres of cooperation between sports organizations and athletes of the two countries. Apart from centralized exchanges, the protocol envisages the establishment of direct ties between athletes of the border areas of the USSR and China.

Novocherkassk Plant Supplies Locomotives to PRC
PM241043 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Dec 87 p 2

[I. Zinkov report: "Electric Locomotives for China"]

[Text] Novocherkassk, Rostov Oblast—A two-section electric locomotive numbered 001 has been sent from the "Novocherkasskiy Electric Locomotive Construction Plant" Production Association to the PRC.

Under a contract concluded between the USSR and the PRC, in the 12th 5-year plan the enterprise is to deliver 100 high-powered locomotives to the Chinese railroads. In accordance with the contract the first group of trainees from China has arrived in Novocherkassk. They will study the construction of the new electric locomotive and the rules for its maintenance.

Northeast Asia

Envoy Says Airspace Violation 'Mistake'
OW251135 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—The Soviet Union told Japan Friday the violation of Japanese airspace over Okinawa by a Soviet plane on December 9 was a mistake and said it will punish the pilot of the plane.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno told reporters that Soviet Ambassador to Tokyo Nikolay Solovyev called on Kazutoshi Hasegawa, director general of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, the same day to convey the Kremlin's view.

Solovyev said the Soviet plane, a TU-16, had experienced equipment trouble while returning to Vladivostok from Vietnam. The pilot, Solovyev said, saw a scrambling Japanese plane, but turned his plane to the right by mistake, resulting in the violation of Japanese airspace.

The plane had no reconnaissance equipment aboard, Solovyev said.

The envoy said the Soviet Union will take proper measures to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents, including an order for pilots to return to their bases if in trouble, flying in groups, improvement of the Tu-16 planes themselves and strengthened training of pilots.

The Kremlin will also reduce the offending pilot's rank, the envoy said.

Hasegawa was quoted as replying that he took note of the report.

Japan lodged a strong protest with the Soviet Union on December 10 over the airspace violation and asked for explanations of the incident through diplomatic channels. But the Soviet Union made its initial explanation to reporters in Moscow and therefore Japan pressed again for further information through official channels.

Soviet-Japanese Fishing Talks End in Pact
LD281928 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1640 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, 28 Dec (TASS)—The conditions for bilateral fishing in 1988 in the economic zones of the USSR and Japan have been defined in a protocol signed in Moscow today as a result of the fourth session of the Soviet-Japanese Commission on Fishing. The document regulates the times, areas, and volumes of fishing, and establishes measures of supervising the observance of the regulations concerning the work of fishing vessles off the coasts of the USSR and Japan.

The sides agreed on a gratuitous basis to grant Soviet fishermen the opportunity to catch 210,000 tons of fish in the Japanese zone, and Japanese fishermen the same amount in the Soviet economic zone. This is 10,000 tons more than in 1987. Moreover, the Soviet side has allocated to the Japanese fishermen on a licence basis an additional quota amounting to 100,000 tons of fish, for which a compensation of 1.710 billion yen has been fixed.

The participants in the session gave much attention to expanding joint investigation of marine fauna in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. It was pointed out that cooperation by scientists of the two countries in this field promoted the rational use of fish resources.

The talks continued for more than a month. The questions on which the positions of the sides diverged concerned the entry of Soviet fishing vessels into Japanese ports and the amount of compensation for the additional quota. The great experience of bilateral cooperation in the industry made possible a positive settlement of differences and the adoption of compromise solutions that will enable the fishermen of the two countries to start bilateral fishing on 1 January without delay.

U.S. Determined To 'Reinforce Japan's Military'
OW290819 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Vinogradov commentary]

[Text] The newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, or RED STAR, carries commentator Vinogradov's article analyzing Japan's involvement in large-scale U.S. military programs. The following is a summary of his article:

According to YOMIURI SHIMBUN, the U.S. Government hopes to get Japan's agreement to participate in an overall technological plan during Prime Minister Takeshita's official visit to the United States in January. It is unclear what the term — overall technological plan — means. According to YOMIURI SHIMBUN, it is an extensive plan designed to develop new, highly accurate and enormously destructive conventional weapons. YOMIURI SHIMBUN points out that with these weapons the Pentagon intends to compensate for a vacuum created when the INF Abolition Treaty is implemented. What is more, Japan is regarded as one of the pillars in this plan.

The drafters of this plan envision a plane for antitank operations which can maneuver easily at low altitude, designed with Japan's scientific and technological expertise. Japanese experts have already been invited to the United States and helped to develop robot tanks which discover and destroy targets independently.

According to KYODO NEWS SERVICE, experts in the Pentagon have departed for Japan to observe the most promising technologies.

The U.S. Government recently asked the Japanese Government and industries to participate in SDI research. The Japanese version of SDI research entails up-to-date military technology and militarizing space. Six Japanese enterprises, including Mitsubishi, Hitachi, and Fujitsu, have already decided to work together on U.S. contracts.

The U.S. Government has been attempting through various means to have Japan participate in its space program, attempting to make use of Japan's scientific and technological capabilities. Hoping to make a fortune, some elements in Japan appear to be plotting to drag Japan into a space arms race that is costly and very dangerous. What is more, this plot is under way despite the fact that Washington thinks Japan's conventional armament is never in bad shape.

As Senator Rockefeller admirably pointed out in his congressional remarks, by 1990 Japan will have risen from sixth place to fourth in military spending, surpassing Britain and France. To show how Japan's Self-Defense Forces have been reinforced, Senator Rockefeller cited the following facts: The Air Self-Defense Force is superior to any other country's air force deployed in Asia, and the Maritime Self-Defense Force is about half as powerful as the U.S. 7th Fleet.

However, the United States and Japan appear to consider these levels insufficient and are showing strong determination to reinforce Japan's military capabilities.

Soviet-Japanese Journalists Conference Ends
OW290751 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Tokyo correspondent Potapov report]

[Text] The Sixth Soviet-Japanese Journalists Roundtable Conference ended in Tokyo on 22 December. The Soviet delegation to the conference included Khachaturov, NOVOSTI deputy chairman who served as conference co-chairman of the Soviet side; Korotich, chief editor of the journal, OGANYEK; and Yefimov, deputy chief editor of IZVESTIYA. Among the participants from the Japanese side were noted political commentators of major newspapers, the KYODO News Service, and NHK. Mr Inoue, director of the editorial department of the KYODO News Service, served as the co-chairman of the Japanese side.

For 2 days, the journalists from the two countries exchanged views extensively on various issues concerning international issues and bilateral relations. The roundtable conference highly appraised the USSR-U.S. summit talks held in Washington and pointed to the treaty on complete INF abolition signed at the summit as a historical step toward practical nuclear arms abolition. At the conference, the participants exchanged views on the role of the mass media in solving various current issues. The remarks by Soviet journalists on the Soviet mass media's reports on perestroyka currently being carried out in the Soviet Union aroused particular interest at the conference.

What was brought to light at the roundtable conference was not only the agreement on views reached between the two sides but also the differences in approaches toward and judgments on some issues. For example, when the Japanese side brought up the so-called territorial issue, it was made clear that differences existed in views and judgments on the domestic political situations in Japan and in the Soviet Union, and also on the relations between the two countries.

The Soviet-Japanese journalists' roundtable conference has concluded. The common impression of the participants was that the roundtable conference was beneficial. Why was the conference beneficial? It was beneficial, first of all, because it clearly pointed out that the new qualitative change currently going on in the world strongly and persistently demands that the mass media of the two countries should deal with the question as to what the future of the people of the two countries should be. There will be no future except for peaceful and good-neighborly relations. The mass media should be able to deal with such a situation. In other words, the mass media should take joint actions instead of taking a wait-and-see attitude.

Rogachev Briefs MPR's Batmonh on Summit Results
PM281911 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation in Ulaanbaatar"]

[Text] J. Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Mongolian People's Great Hural Presidium, received I.A. Rogachev, special representative of the Soviet leadership and USSR deputy foreign minister, 24 December.

J. Batmonh was thoroughly briefed on the results of the visit to Washington by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and his talks with U.S. President R. Reagan. It was noted that the Treaty on the Elimination of Soviet and U.S. Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles opens up prospects for lowering the level of nuclear confrontation and accords with the interests of all the planet's peoples.

The general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee stated that his party and the government and people of Mongolia fully and entirely endorse the results of M.S. Gorbachev's official visit to the United States and his principled stance during the Soviet-American summit. The accords reached, the Mongolian leader stressed, are the first step along the road of the implementation of the historic program for nuclear disarmament put forward by M.S. Gorbachev 15 January 1986. It is more than symbolic that mankind's first step toward a world without wars was taken in the portentous year of the 70th anniversary of Great October. The historic breakthrough in international affairs became possible as a result of the consistent and purposeful struggle of the CPSU and the Soviet state to save the peoples of the world from the nuclear threat, and thanks to their active and tireless efforts to establish the new political thinking in world politics.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Communist Party of Vietnam Plenum Held

PM291213 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Hanoi, 20 Dec—The Vietnamese press reported today that a Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee plenum was held here 8 through 17 December. Its participants summed up the results of the past year's work to fulfill decisions of the Sixth CPV Congress and examined the avenues and tasks for the republic's economic and social development in 1988 and for the period through 1990.

The plenum pointed out that in 1987 the party and the whole people took the first steps toward renewal, the program for which was drawn up by the Sixth CPV Congress. Positive changes emerged in the sphere of party and state leadership and in resolving a number of economic and social questions. Working people's creative activeness has grown as well. Nevertheless, progressive improvements, notwithstanding all their importance, are still of a local character and are not sufficiently reliable.

Numerous acute problems persist in the socioeconomic sphere, the information report said. Food production has fallen, growth rates in state, small-scale, and cottage industries have slowed down, and the national per capita income has decreased. Income is not covering expenditure. Real wages continue to fall and the number of unemployed continues to rise, as does confusion in the distribution and circulation sphere. Acute negative phenomena in the social sphere persist.

In the opinion of the plenum's participants, this situation has been caused both by a number of objective factors and also by subjective causes, including strategic mistakes in the leadership of the economy over the last decade or more. These mistakes, and also shortcomings, in the cadre-organizational and ideological spheres have not been finally overcome even in 1987.

The plenum determined the basic guidelines and tasks for work in the socioeconomic sphere for 1988 and the period through 1990. They include implementation of the three main national economic tasks set by the Sixth CPV Congress (increasing production of food, export output, and consumer goods), introducing economic accountability [khozraschet] and other forms of socialist management, and strengthening the state and cooperative sectors, ensuring employment, and improving social relations.

Speaking at the plenum, Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, stressed that 1988 will be of decisive significance for the fulfillment of the plans of the present 5-year plan. He indicated the need to strengthen all links of party and state leadership and pointed out that the most important conditions for successfully implementing the course of renewal are democratization, broader glasnost, and enhancement of the working masses' creative initiative and real participation in resolving tasks facing the republic.

Chebrikov's Activities in Laos Reported

Lays Wreath at Monument

LD282058 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The official friendly visit of Comrade Chebrikov to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] continues.

[Correspondent A. Galkin] The day's schedule, apart from official meetings and negotiations, includes becoming acquainted with the national capital, Vientiane. Preserving on the whole its ancient outlook created by the numerous temples, Vientiane increasingly has been taking on the features of a modern city. The highest administrative and state bodies of the republic on the Mekong, banks, industrial enterprises, main cultural establishments, institutes, and technical schools, are found in Vientiane.

The monument to the heroes who perished fighting for the Lao Revolution towers above the capital's main square, yielding nothing to the works of ancient architects as far as monumentality and grace are concerned. Comrade Chebrikov laid a wreath at the foot of the monument. After that, Viktor Mikhaylovich Cherbrikov viewed the Lao People's Army Museum, where exhibits on display bear witness to the prolonged struggle of the patriots for the country's independence from colonialists, against the monarchy and national bourgeoisie, for the right to build socialism.

The LPDR has been following the path of socialist transformation for 12 years. Over these years, the once-backward country in the center of Indochina, enjoying the economic and political support of the Soviet Union and other socialist states, has made a number of major steps in the cause of building foundations of socialism.

Meets With Officials, Departs

LD290750 Moscow TASS in English 0731 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Vientiane December 29 TASS—Viktor Chebrikov, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), chairman of the State Security Committee of the USSR, has stayed in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) and the Laotian Government from December 27 to 29.

While in Laos Viktor Chebrikov met with Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LPDR, and exchanged views with him on matters of versatile cooperation between the Soviet Union and Laos in all fields and on a number of international issues.

He also had talks with Khamatai Siphandon, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the LPRP Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of defence of the LPDR, and with Asang Laoli, member of the LPRP Central Committee, acting minister of the interior. Matters of mutual interest were considered during the talks.

Viktor Chebrikov visited the museum of the People's Army of Laos in Vientiane, and laid a wreath at the monument to the fighters of the Laotian revolution.

On December 29 Viktor Chebrikov left Vientiane for home. At the airport he was seen off by Khamtai Siphandone, Asang Laoli, by K. Boupha, member of the LPRP Central Committee, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the LPDR, and by other officials.

DRA's Najibullah Continues Visit to SRV

Visits Ho Chi Minh City

LD281440 Moscow TASS in English 1409 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Ho Chi Minh December 28 TASS—An official friendly visit to Vietnam of a party and state delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan led by Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, is going on. The honoured Afghan guests came today from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh, a major economic, cultural and scientific centre of socialist Vietnam.

At the Ho Chi Minh Airport the party and state delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan was accorded a cordial welcome by the heads of the city, representatives of public organizations and labour collectives. Pioneers gave bunches of flowers to Najibullah and all other members of the delegation.

Najibullah and the officials who accompany him visited today a memorial museum of Ho Chi Minh, the great son of the Vietnamese nation, founder of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the first president of the Republic. They saw exhibits of the museum and made an entry in the distinguished visitors' book. Later on the Afghan guests visited an exhibition of export commodities produced in Ho Chi Minh and saw the sights of the city.

Najibullah and Afghan officials met with the heads of the city and had a conversation with them in the Unity Palace. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of comradeship and complete mutual understanding.

Activities Reviewed

LD282324 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] [Announcer] The Afghan delegation led by DRA President Najibullah is continuing its official friendly visit to Vietnam. Our correspondent, Leonid Krichevskiy, reports from Hanoi:

[Krichevskiy] The main event took place today. The signing of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the SRV and the DRA took place in the Presidential Palace. It was signed by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and President Najibullah of the DRA. Both leaders stressed the great importance of the treaty for the further development of the entire package of relations between the two countries. Vietnam regards the national reconciliation policy being implemented by the DRA Government with full understanding and approval.

In the course of the negotiations in Hanoi, international problems also were reviewed. In particular, the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting were appraised highly,

and first and foremost, the treaty signed in Washington on eliminating two classes of nuclear missiles. The Vietnamese and Afghan leaders consider this treaty to be an important step on the way to reducing nuclear arsenals and getting rid of the nuclear threat hanging over mankind.

The Cambodian problem also was touched upon in Hanoi. The Hanoi press points out that the Afghan delegation's visit is an important event for Vietnam. It will promote strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Vietnam actively supports the DRA Government's peace efforts aimed at making peace finally reign over the Afghan land.

Chaplin Briefs PRK's Heng Samrin on Summit

BK230616 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1330 GMT 22 Dec 87

["Flash news"]

[Text] In Phnom Penh, Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State, today received Comrade Chaplin, who is special envoy of the Soviet leadership.

The Soviet envoy clearly informed the Cambodian leader about the outcome of the visit to Washington by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and on agreements reached during his talks with the U.S. President.

For his part, Comrade Heng Samrin said the KPRP Central Committee and the PRK Government warmly welcome and support the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Elimination of Medium- and Short-Range Missiles, which is an important step toward reaching the elimination of all nuclear weapons and toward eradicating the danger of nuclear war. This treaty is the outcome of the firm foreign policy of peace of the Soviet Government, a government that has actively led the struggle to safeguard peace throughout the world. The Soviet-U.S. treaty actively assists the world's trend toward settling conflicts through negotiations and opens a new page of mankind's history [words indistinct].

Comrade Heng Samrin added: The KPRP will firmly adhere to the line of realizing the national reconciliation policy in Cambodia and (?the line of political settlement with an aim of clearing up all of the issues) in Southeast Asia. We hope the agreement reached in Washington will have a positive influence on the situation in Asia and the Pacific.

Also present at today's meeting in Phnom Penh were comrade members of the KPRP's Central Committee and Political Bureau, Comrades Chea Sim, Say Phuthang, Bou Thang, Mat Ly, and Ney Pena, and Comrade Razdukhov, Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the PRK.

Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Thailand's Sitthi

BK290049 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] A Vietnamese role in Kampuchean peace talks is vital, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila told Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valentin Nikiforov yesterday.

Mr Nikiforov, who met ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi in Bangkok during a stopover on his return to Moscow, was also told that a Vietnamese troop withdrawal was essential to a lasting settlement in Kampuchea.

Ministry deputy spokesman Witthaya Rayananon said that ACM Sitthi and Mr Nikiforov met for 45 minutes and discussed the Washington summit, regional development, Afghanistan, and the Middle East.

The Soviet minister and ACM Sitthi agreed that Thai-Soviet relations had significantly improved since the visit to Thailand of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Mr Nikiforov also gave ACM Sitthi a letter from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, who is set to visit Moscow early next year.

The spokesman said Thailand had shown sincere wish for good relations and cooperation with the Soviet Union.

"ACM Sitthi told the Soviet minister that Thailand wants good relations with the Soviet Union and also with Laos and Vietnam," he said.

More on Nikiforov-Sitthi Talks

BK291048 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Deputy Director General of the Information Department Wit Rayananon reported on the this morning's meeting between Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Valentin Nikiforov, who is currently visiting Thailand. [passage omitted] The Soviet deputy foreign minister presented to the foreign minister CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's invitation to the Thai prime minister to visit the Soviet Union. Thailand indicated to the Soviet Union that it would prefer the visit to take place between May and June next year.

The Thai foreign minister stressed Thailand's sincerity in having good relations with the Soviet Union. He said that Thailand also sincerely wishes to have good relations with Vietnam and Laos. Thailand harbors no hostile feelings with other countries but wishes to have good relations. The deputy director general of the Information Department reported that the two exchanged views on Cambodia. Both admitted that the Cambodian problem must be settled through political negotiations. Thailand reiterated its stand of requiring foreign troops

to be pulled out from Cambodia, implementation of the policy of national reconciliation of Cambodia, and participation by Vietnam in the negotiations.

At the meeting, the Soviet deputy foreign minister reported to the Thai foreign minister about the results of the U.S.-Soviet summit which included discussions on regional issues, such as the problems in Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Middle East, Central America, and the war between Iraq and Iran. The Thai foreign minister welcomed the summit outcome, saying the exchange of views by the two leaders on regional issues is good. He said that Thailand and ASEAN had already made public its support for the summit of the U.S. and Soviet leaders.

Near East & South Asia

Afghan Troops Gain Control of Khowst Road

LD291612 Moscow TASS in English 1526 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul December 29 TASS—Afghan Army units involved in an operation to clear the road to the city of Khowst, whcih had been temporarily blocked by counter-revolutionary gangs, today gained complete control over that important transportation route.

It is now possible to take convoys of trucks with food, prime necessities and fuel to that city whose population has been made a target for counter-revolutionary terror tactics.

Prospects for Afghanistan Solution Analyzed

LD282007 Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Prospects for reaching a solution to the situation in and around Afghanistan are now analysed by Viktor Glazunov. This is what he writes.

The experience of the past few years shows that the problems connected with Afghanistan can be solved only by political means. Judging by different statements everyone seems to favor a political settlement, even the leaders of the groupings waging an armed struggle against the Government in Kabul. But a political settlement signifies willingness to give up the use of force and to engage in a dialogue, cooperation and concessions. But the ringleaders of the terrorists want something different—they want the Afghan Government to capitulate. The goal they failed to reach by means of military actions conducted for many years.

Unfortunately, their destructive stand receives support primarily from the U.S. Administration, whose talk about a political settlement turns into greater supplies of modern weaponry for the terrorists. To act like this means to pour oil on the flames of war, to burn the bridges leading to a political solution. About a year ago the government in Kabul put forward a program for national reconciliation. The months that have passed since have shown that this is a firm and consistent course that has no sensible alternative.

Within the framework of national reconciliation Kabul is prepared to share power with the opposing side. It allowed the formation of different political parties. The role of Islam was reaffirmed constitutionally. Thousands of imprisoned counterrevolutionaries were amnestied. All this has met with worldwide response and understanding. Last week's meeting in Delhi between the Indian Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi and the Afghan president, Dr Najibullah, served as an important evidence of the fact that Kabul's policy of national reconciliation had international support. Additional testimony of this was the Afghan leader's visit to the Indochina countries.

As for the Soviet Union, it welcomed the policy of national reconciliation in Afghanistan at once and it is prepared to do all in its power for the sake of a fair and rapid solution to the Afghan problem. It decided in principle to pull out its military contingent from Afghanistan within 12 months, or even earlier, depending on the end to the undecalred war against Afghanistan—which was the reason why a Soviet military contingent was invited to Afghanistan 8 years ago. The Soviet Union does not want a pro-Soviet regime to be established in Afghanistan but the United States must also announce unambiguously that it doesn't want a pro-American regime to be set up there too.

If Afghanistan is to become a free, nonaligned and neutral country a political solution to its problem can be reached in the near future without procrastination.

DRA Security Service Thwarts Rebel Provocation

LD272256 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 27 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; correspondent M. Leshchinskiy video report from Kabul]

[Text] In less than 3 weeks' time, it will be a whole year since the policy of national reconciliation was actively implemented in Afghanistan. These past months have brought many changes in the life of the neighboring country: First and foremost, indisputable positive improvements toward a political settlement of both internal and external problems. However, the tendencies towards an increase in foreign interference in Afghan affairs remain firm, aimed at disrupting Kabul's peace efforts, aggravating the military-political situation, and frightening the civilian population. In the course of this year, the number of armed provocations and acts of terrorism and sabotage has increased considerably. [Video shows Afghan street scenes; Leshchinskiy, in front of unfinished house, crowd of people]

A few days ago, this as yet unfinished house came to the attention of the people's militia sentries who are posted in this densely-populated area of Kabul. What happened was that late one evening, a lot of activity was noticed—cars drove up, something was unloaded, and previously unknown people appeared. Today, we came here with a SWAT team from the Kabul State Security. Behind a blank wall at the rear of the house, they discovered a single door which was locked. Concealed behind it were: missile shells, timing mechanisms and other automatic launch devices, forged Afghan Army stamps and documents. [video shows men, some in suits, some in uniform, going to back of house, breaking down door, sorting through shells, alarm clocks, bundles of cord, stamps, documents]

It is not hard to understand what the shells were meant for, if one went up onto the roof of the house, as our cameraman did. From here one can have a clear line of sight to hit dwellings and state and public institutions; the Soviet Embassy and its housing complex is a few hundred meters away.

Within literally a few hours, several men were detained in the city on suspicion of complicity in the impending crime.

[Begin Leshchinskiy interview with man captioned Kh. Muhammad outside gateway] This is the investigator. What did the first interrogations of the accused show?

[Muhammad in vernacular with Leshchinskiy Russian translation superimposed] For the moment one cannot say much. However, some have already said that they were infiltrated here from Pakistan, where they were trained in Peshawar to use surface-to-surface missiles. The name of the Pakistani instructor was also given, an engineer, (Ishaq). Today the group was to have shelled several of the city's central areas at once, including the Soviet Embassy. [end interview]

Thus the latest provocation by the enemies of national reconciliation in Afghanistan was thwarted.

Afghan Official on Aid to Returning Refugees
LD222039 Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul December 22 TASS—By TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin:

Nearly 110,000 people who left Afghanistan before and during the years of the revolution in this country have returned to their homeland since the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, a senior Afghan official said in a TASS interview.

Khalil Jalal, first deputy head of the State Committee for the Return of Refugees, said most had been coming back home from neighboring countries where there were dozens of refugee camps in areas hardly fit for living.

He said that 60,000 people had returned from Pakistan and 48,000 from Iran and that more and more of his compatriots were coming back from India, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Dozens of Afghans had returned home after many years in West Germany and the United States. Refugees were also arriving from Canada, Australia, Japan, Switzerland and Turkey, most of them by whole families, Jalal continued.

He said the Committee for the Return of Refugees, which, he added, could be called a "child of reconciliation", was responsible for organizing the reception of new arrivals, material and medical assistance to them, their transportation to their home parts, the issuance of documents (identification cards of foremer refugees and certificates deferring their military service), job placement, provision with housing, and the return of property earlier confiscated by the state.

On their way home refugees, Jalal said, had to overcome numerous barriers erected by Pakistani and Iranian authorities. Many former refugees coming to the committee said that extremists in control of refugee camps threatened death to everybody deciding to return to Afghanistan, he added.

Frontier guards in Iran and Pakistan searched all Afghans managing to flee from camps and allowed them to cross the border only after taking away all their belongings. That was why, Jalal explained, many preferred to hire smugglers to take them by contraband paths across mountains and desert lands.

"Afghan border guard units offer returning refugees first medical aid and food and issue them identification cards, after which these people are directed to 'peace hotels' in district or provincial centers," Jalal went on to say.

"Such hotels have been set up in 13 provinces and each of them can accomodate 500 or more people. Returnees stay there for four or five days, undergoing a full medical examination and being issued aid in food and prime necessities for up to six months," Jalal said.

"After that the former refugees go to Kabul and on to their home parts. The government has taken on all expenses involved in transportation, medical services and social welfare aid provided to returnees," he added.

"Of course, we have to cooperate with the security service closely as there have been cases of bandits and spies sent here under the guise of refugees among those sincerely wishing to return to peaceful work in the native land," Jalal said.

"The process of the return of Afghans home has picked up markedly since the last Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly). This has in a large measure been due to the adoption of a new constitution.

"Its provisions on Islam and on the rights and liberties of citizens have strengthened people's belief in the sincerity of the new political and economic course of the revolutionary government.

"I believe that were it not for the artificial impediments thrown up by the authorities of neighboring countries, up to 90 percent of the Afghans living in Pakistan and Iran would return to the homeland within the near future," Jalal said.

Further on Najibullah's Visit to South Asia

Meets With India's Ghandi

PM291257 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Korovikov report: "Visit by Afghan President"]

[Text] Delhi, 25 Dec—Afghan President Najibullah made a 24-hour stopover in the Indian capital en route from Kabul to Hanoi. He had a 3-hour conversation with Indian Prime Minister R. Gandhi yesterday afternoon. There have also been talks between the two states' foreign ministers. Najibullah left Delhi this morning.

Official reports and press commentaries say that the meeting between the two leaders proceeded in a friendly atmosphere and a spirit of mutual understanding. R. Gandhi and Najibullah held a detailed discussion on bilateral relations and the current situation in Afghanistan and the South Asia region. They devoted particular attention to the problem of the further political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. The Indian side was informed in detail of the efforts being made to implement the national reconciliation program and the first results produced by Kabul's peace-loving policy. It was noted that new potential for a constructive solution to the Afghan issue has opened up since the signing in Washington of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which has considerably improved the international climate. The newspapers are quoting the words spoken by M.S. Gorbachev in Washington: "A government must be formed in a free, nonaligned, neutral Afghanistan on the basis of reconciliation, the summation and consideration of the political realities, and cooperation founded on a coalition of different forces and their national reconciliation."

However, an undeclared war is still being actively waged against Afghanistan. Large consignments of arms and financial aid are generously bestowed on the dushmans, mainly through Pakistan. The Afghan president stressed that an end to arms supplies and other aid to anti-Afghan groups and the timetable for withdrawing the Soviet military contingent are two aspects of the same process of reaching a political settlement.

There are still forces in Washington that continue to pour oil on the fire of the Afghan conflict. India is concerned by U.S. policy in this region. It is well known here that by speculating on the Afghan crisis the Pentagon has considerably increased the U.S. military presence in the region and is supplying Pakistan with the latest military equipment on an increasing scale, thereby virtually rearming its Army and Navy. Just a few days ago Congress approved the granting of a further enormous sum of money to Pakistan for the next fiscal year. Most of this money will be spent on arms purchases.

Local observers believe that as one of the leaders of the Nonaligned Movement, a country with traditionally close, friendly economic, trade, and cultural ties with Afghanistan, and a state with a great interest in normalizing the situation in the region, India has an important role to play in the successful resolution of the conflict around Afghanistan that has dragged on for so long. The situation is now such that there is reason to hope that 1988 will bring closer peace in Afghanistan and will strengthen security and good-neighborly relations in South Asia—a region with a population of more than 1 billion people. The Delhi meeting between the two state leaders was devoted to the attainment of this noble aim.

Concludes Visit to SRV

LD291134 Moscow TASS in English 1121 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Ho Chi Minh city December 29 TASS—The party and state delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan led by Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, president of the Republic, has ended the official friendly visit to Vietnam. Today Najibullah and the persons accompanying him have left Ho Chi Minh for Phnom Penh, the capital of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

DRA Scholars, Clerics Cable Supports Gorbachev

LD221345 Moscow TASS in English 0956 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 21, BAKHTAR—Participants of the nation-wide session of Supreme Council of Scholars and Clerics of the Republic of Afghanistan have sent a message addressed to Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union.

The message has fully supported the indefatigable efforts made by the leader of the Soviet Union for the world peace. The message has congratulated the Soviet leader, the Soviet people as well as all the peace-loving forces of the world on the first step taken in this direction by concluding the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles despite the stubborn resistance of imperialist bellicose circles.

Pursuing the Islamic principles and deeply perceiving the tense situation prevailing in Afghanistan, the region and the world, which has come about due to the policy of imperialist circles, the scholars and clerics of the Republic of Afghanistan cannot remain indifferent in this effect as indifference vis-a-vis the fate of humanity is contrary to Islamic convictions, says the message.

The Council of Scholars and Clerics of the Republic of Afghanistan considers the continuation of war and fratricide as contrary to Islamic principles. Moreover, the council firmly believes that the unique assistance of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan constitutes a powerful factor for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation.

While paying great heed to the Soviet Union's support to the policy of national reconciliation, the council in its message has requested Mikhail Gorbachev to keep up his noble efforts for the cessation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

PRAVDA Reports Husayn Moscow News Conference
PM241147 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report on 23 December Moscow news conference by King Husayn of Jordan under general heading "Soviet-Jordanian Talks End"]

[Text] Prior to his departure Husayn ibn Talal delivered a statement in front of Soviet and foreign journalists at a press conference held at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center.

Just like past visits, King Husayn said, the present visit to the USSR has enabled us to have a thorough exchange of views on wide-ranging issues of mutual interest in the spirit of a frank dialogue.

Tremendous importance attaches to the fact that the visit followed immediately after two major events in international life. The first had a direct bearing on the destiny of the Arab nation—it was the pan-Arab summit in Amman. It could be described as a conference of accord and restoration of cooperation.

The second event was the signing of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. This key event affects the destiny of all mankind. People have been waiting for it for a long time. Naturally it has also affected Arab countries—I am referring to the group of nonaligned states. The signing of this document was made possible thanks to the wise initiative of the Soviet Union.

We ardently welcome the results of the Soviet-American summit and the signing of the treaty as an important step in the cause of curbing the arms race and eliminating nuclear weapons which present a threat to all mankind. We welcome this event also because other important problems were discussed in Washington too. During the summit attention was drawn to regional conflict situations, to the presence of permanent flashpoints on the planet. Quite naturally, the regional problems and conflict situations demand a solution and the sooner it is found, the better. We understand, of course, that this task demands an all-out effort from everyone in order to lower tension, the king said.

Dwelling on the results of the Amman conference, the king noted:

We regard the decisions adopted at this conference as a good starting point for further joint actions by the Arab countries along the path of consolidating their cohesion, uniting their ranks, and taking joint action.

The Soviet leadership has been briefed on the Arab countries' view of what is currently happening in the world and in the Near East—that explosive region—in particular. It is primarily a question of the unresolved Palestinian problem—the key problem in the Arab-Israeli conflict—a situation that has prevailed for many years. In Amman decisions were adopted to the effect that the only way to a comprehensive and just Near East settlement leads through the convening of an international conference on the Near East under the aegis of the United Nations with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the sides involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Jordanian head of state called for a quest for a speedy Arab-Israeli settlement and the solution of the Palestinian problem. He noted that on the occupied Arab territories the population's movement against Israeli occupation practices and against Israel's actions directed above all against the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people is growing. We will never forget the tribulations of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories and the efforts of the Palestinian people in offering resistance to the occupation forces.

The Near East is facing another dangerous situation that presents a threat not only to the peoples of our region but to international security as a whole. I am referring to the problem of the Iran-Iraq war. It is compounded by the presence of foreign armed forces in the Persian Gulf.

During the talks in Moscow various questions of the state and development of bilateral Soviet-Jordanian relations have been discussed in detail. We have come to the conclusion that both sides feel extreme satisfaction at the current state of Soviet-Jordanian relations based on mutual friendship and trust and also on honor and conscientiousness, the king said. Naturally, we have also discussed questions of further ways and means of strengthening Soviet-Jordanian ties in all spheres.

The king expressed full satisfaction with the results of the talks and in particular with the coincidence of views on most of the questions discussed.

He answered journalists' questions.

Moscow TV Coverage

LD240150 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2007 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Report on the news conference by Jordan's King Husayn given at the Foreign Ministry Press Center in Moscow on 23 December]

[Text] [Video shows King Husayn seated on rostrum in front of a microphone flanked by two unidentified men.] King Husayn started his address saying, the meeting with representatives of the mass media from various countries of the world gives me an excellent opportunity to convey profound gratitude, on my own behalf and on behalf of our delegation, to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, for the friendly reception and hospitality with which we were surrounded from the first hours of our stay in Moscow.

We are experiencing a feeling of satisfaction in connection with the positive results of our visit to the Soviet Union and the meaningful constructive talks which passed off in a spirit of frank dialogue and mutual understanding with the Soviet leaders.

During these talks a very useful exchange of views also took place on questions of Soviet-Jordanian relations and on the most burning problems of international life.

Of especial importance for me was that our visit to the USSR followed soon after two major international events, King Husayn said. The first, which directly concerns the destinies of the Arab nations, is the pan-Arab summit in Amman, which we called a meeting of agreement [soglasiye]. The other major event concerns the destinies of all mankind, I mean the signing in Washington of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. This treaty opens up a path towards freeing our planet from the nuclear threat. Its conclusion became possible thanks to the Soviet Union's wise initiatives and the persistent talks of the two superpowers.

It is quite natural that the Soviet-U.S. summit and the treaty that was signed in the course of this summit aroused our sincere and profound approval as a first but most important step in the context of curbing the nuclear arms race and eliminating nuclear weapons that pose a threat to peace and the security of all mankind.

We also welcomed the results of the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Washington, because the most burning regional problems were discussed there. The participants in the Washington meeting devoted a great deal of attention to the settlement of regional conflicts. The explosive situation in the Near and Middle East, in the Persian Gulf, and other regions of the world need to be resolved as soon as possible; the earlier this is done the better this will be for all peoples. We understand that this task demands intensive efforts and close cooperation from all in order to lower international tension.

During my conversations with the Soviet leaders, I acquainted them with the results of the conference of heads of Arab states in Amman. We regard the decisions made at this conference as a point of departure for further joint actions by the Arab countries along the road of strengthening their cohesion and unity. We were guided by the understanding that the absence of such unity runs counter to our interests and goals regarding the renewal of joint actions by the Arab states in the interests of a just solution of the Near East problem and the cessation of conflicts in the Persian Gulf region. In Amman we adopted a decision to the effect that the only road toward achieving an all-embracing and just peace settlement in the Near East is by convening an international conference with full powers under the aegis of the UN with the participation of the five Security Council permanent members and all sides involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO. We believe that the PLO should be ensured participation in this conference on an equal basis with the other sides. Naturally, Israel, too, must take part in the conference.

During the Soviet-Jordanian talks the thought was expressed that it is necessary to speed up the consultations, the dialogue among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the Arab countries, and all interested parties with a view to searching for an early settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and a solution of the Palestinian problem.

However our region, King Husayn continued, has also run into another extremely dangerous situation that poses a threat not only to the peoples of the Near and Middle East, but also to the international community. I mean the Iran-Iraq conflict and the situation in the Persian Gulf region as a whole. The tendency toward widening this bloody conflict is growing stronger. Now not only Iraq but also Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries of the Persian Gulf have found themselves under threat of hostile actions by Iran. Thus we are dealing with a danger threatening the entire Arab world. The situation in the Near East is also of a threatening nature because of the presence there of foreign armed forces. At the Amman conference we spoke out unanimously in favor of the earliest possible cessation of the Iran-Iraq war and stated that the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 would be one of the major means of achieving this goal. The sharp exacerbation of the situation in this region requires further vigorous actions both by the countries of that region themselves and by the entire international community, first of all the permanent members of the Security Council.

We are glad to note, King Husayn of Jordan noted, that during the Soviet-Jordanian meetings in Moscow and in the matter of calling an international conference on the

Near East with a view to achieving an all-embracing and just settlement, and in the matter of an early cessation of the Iran-Iraq conflict, a common understanding that vigorous actions are needed for safeguarding peace and security in this region was observed.

After this King Husayn of Jordan replied to questions by foreign journalists.

The correspondent of the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN asked him to express his attitude toward the Soviet Union's position on this matter set out by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev during his meeting with the head of the Jordanian state. What, in your view, are the prospects for a cessation of the Iran-Iraq war, the correspondent asked.

I would not wish to go in for predictions about when this bloody conflict could end. I would like to tell you that, as a result of the talks which took place in Moscow, I left with the conviction that the Soviet Union is a resolute and consistent supporter of an early cessation of the Iran-Iraq war, of the settlement of vexed questions by political means on the basis of UNSC Resolution 598. We are sincerely convinced the situation which has come about in the Persian Gulf is intolerable and must be settled as quickly as possible.

A correspondent of the U.S. news agency ASSOCIATED PRESS asked: Can it be expected that the Security Council will adopt a resolution on the imposition of an embargo on the delivery of weapons to Iran which, is refusing to implement the Council's decision?

During the Soviet-Jordanian meeting in Moscow, King Husayn noted, the need was stressed to use all means for a cessation of the war, including those provided for by the UN Charter. A great deal will depend here on the warring parties themselves, on their readiness to bring the matter to a genuine settlement on the basis of reasonable compromises. The permanent members of the Security Council are designed to play an important role in order to get Resolution 598 implemented and to achieve the earliest possible cessation of the Iran-Iraq war and an improvement of the entire situation in the Persian Gulf basin, King Husayn stressed.

A correspondent of the Lebanese paper AN-NIDA' asked: Was the situation in Lebanon discussed during the Soviet-Jordanian talks?

This problem was not examined in detail, King Husayn said. It was discussed in the general context of the search for the settlement of conflict situations in the Near and Middle East, a cessation of bloodshed and the achievement of peace. I will add that the Lebanese problem, side-by-side with other problems, took up considerable room at the pan-Arab meeting in Amman. All Arab peoples are interested in seeing the problems of Lebanon resolved and the situation there settled by peaceful means in the interests of the Lebanese people, in the interests of all Arab peoples.

After the press conference ended King Husayn replied to questions by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov, Moscow television political observer.

Your Excellency, your brief official visit to our country was replete with meaningful talks with the Soviet leadership, said Seyful-Mulyukov. How could you evaluate their significance and results for building a secure world in the Near East region and throughout the world?

The atmosphere in which our talks passed off was very friendly and constructive, said King Husayn. This has made it possible to discuss many regional and international questions. I am very satisfied with the results of my meetings and conversations with the Soviet leaders. Upon my return to my homeland, I will convey to the Arab governments and peoples my impressions about this important visit. Jordan sets very great store by its friendship with the Soviet Union, and this visit will no doubt serve to further strengthen and broaden our cooperation. I also wish to note that during the talks a coincidence of opinions and positions of the Soviet Union and Jordan manifested itself on most of the problems discussed. I highly evaluate the results of our visit to Moscow.

Seyful-Mulyukov asked: How do you assess the role of the Soviet Union in the struggle for the elimination of hotbeds of military tension, for the building of a nuclear-free and nonviolent world?

Lately major strides have been taken in the international arena towards lessening nuclear danger and strengthening peace, King Husayn said. An important role in this belongs to the Soviet Union. Its foreign policy initiative is arousing great hopes for an improvement in the entire international situation, for a better future for all mankind. First of all we highly evaluate the Soviet-U.S. accords in Washington, and hope that they will bring a positive influence to bear on the settlement of regional conflicts that pose a potential threat to all peoples. The elimination of hotbeds of military tension, including in the Near East, would make for an improvement of the entire international situation.

The world has lately witnessed an insurrection by Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip against the Israeli occupation, Seyful Mulyukov said. How do you regard these events?

For 20 years now the Palestinians have been languishing under the heel of the Israeli invaders on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip, King Husayn said. Terror and violence evoke a counterreaction by the Arab people of Palestine on the occupied territories. The insurrection by the Palestinians is first of all the result of the policy of occupation and annexation. The Israeli

leaders are going in for self-deception, claiming that this insurrection is allegedly the doing of external forces. The truth is that this insurrection is the Palestinian people's reply to the occupiers' actions. The Palestinian problem must find its just solution. This solution can be reached only by dint of restoring justice, by dint of calling an international conference on the Near East, in the course of which the Palestinian question, they key element of a Near East settlement, must also be solved.

USSR's Brutents Briefs PDRY Leaders on Summit

PM281451 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Soviet Representative's Meetings in Aden"]

[Text] Aden, 27 Dec—K.N. Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, and the personal representative of the CPSU Central Committee general secretary, had meetings 25 and 26 December with members of the Politburo of the Yemen Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee S.S. Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, H.A. al-'Attas, chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, and Y.S. Nu'man, chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers.

In the ensuing conversations the South Yemeni leaders were told in detail about the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington. They all made a high assessment of the constructive course of Soviet foreign policy aimed at delivering mankind from the threat of nuclear war, ending the arms race, and eliminating seats of tension in various regions. They emphasized the great positive significance of the Washington meeting's results for the normalization of the international situation and the reinforcement in it of the trend toward resolving important and acute problems by political means with a balanced consideration of the sides' interests. The South Yemeni leaders were also told about the course and present stage of the restructuring process in the Soviet Union and the CPSU's activity to accelerate the country's socioeconomic development and strengthen the moral and spiritual bases of Soviety society.

There was also an exchange of opinions on certain other topical problems of interest to both parties. The conversations took place in an atmosphere of comradeliness and friendship.

Gulf Cooperation Council Session Closes 29 Dec

LD291221 Moscow TASS in English 1129 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo December 29 TASS—The eighth summit meeting of the member countries of the cooperation council of the Arab Gulf states is to close in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, today. In the course of the meeting the leaders of Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Saudi Arabia discussed measures to develop cooperation in the field of defense, economy and finance. The meeting centered on the situation in the Persian Gulf in conditions of the continuing Iran-Iraq war.

The participants in the meeting called for an end to the war on the basis of the UN Security Council decision. The closed meeting held on Monday, the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM said, decided to send president of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan to Tehran on a mediatory mission. The members of the council have strongly condemned the policy of terror and repressions pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab lands and declared their solidarity with the fight of the Palestinian people for their inalienable rights. The heads of the six states endorsed an agreement on joint security.

Vorontsev Receives Arab Diplomats 26 Dec

LD281152 Moscow TASS in English 1024 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsev, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, on December 26 received a group of the [word indistinct] Arab diplomatic missions in Moscow, including Ambassador Muhammad 'Abd al-'Uthman of the Yemen Arab Republic, Ambassador Sa'd 'Abd al-Majid al-Faysal of Iraq, Charge d'Affaires ad interim A.S.A. aL-Jazzar of Egypt, and Charge d'Affaires ad interim Sa'id Abu 'Imarah of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Arab diplomats briefed him on the dangerous situation in Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories as a result of Israeli authorities' repressive action against Palestinian civilians and handed him a statement on this score, which was adopted by the leaders of Arab diplomatic missions in Moscow on December 24.

The Soviet side strongly denounced the criminal activities against the civilian population in the occupied Arab territories and reaffirmed the invariable solidarity of the peoples of the Soviet Union with the rightful struggle by the Arab people of Palestine for liberating their lands from oppressive Israeli occupation and exercising their inalienable national rights.

Vorontsev stressed that the illegitimate policies and practices of Israel's ruling quarters against the Palestinian people have aroused much anxiety and concern around the world, a fact reflected in U.N. Security Council resolution 605 which has been supported by the Soviet Union.

The latest dramatic developments in Israeli-occupied Arab lands and the mounting liberation movement there urgently call for a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict whose pivotal problem is the issue of implementing the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The route to such a settlement lies through an early convocation of an international conference under the U.N. aegis with the participation of all sides directly concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization—the sole lawful representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Palestine Solidarity Meeting Held in Moscow

LD282141 Moscow TASS in English 2124 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—"The movement of the Arab people of Palestine has reached the scope of a popular uprising and is supported by all of mankind's progressive forces", said Vadim Sementsov, representative of the Soviet Committee of Friendship and Solidarity With the Arab People of Palestine.

He addressed a meeting of solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people, held today at the Council for the Affairs of Foreign Students in the USSR. The meeting involved students from Arab countries studying at Soviet higher schools.

The meeting adopted a "statement of solidarity with the popular uprising in the Israeli occupied territories", which says, in part, that "this uprising is an expression of the heroic will of the Palestinian people and their firm aspiration to get their inalienable national rights implemented. It confirms the Palestinians' cohesion around the Palestine Liberation Organisation, their sole lawful representative."

Those present at the meeting sent telegrams to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Perez de Cuellar, U.N. secretary-general, Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Ide Oumarou, general secretary of the Organisation of African Unity, and Chedli Klibi, general secretary of the League of Arab States.

Sa'id A.M. 'Imarah, charge d'affaires of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the USSR, took part in the meeting.

Israeli Handling of Palestinians Criticized

LD241636 Moscow TASS in English 1453 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—By TASS commentator Sergey Medvedko:

A popular uprising has engulfed the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. For two weeks now the indigenous population of these lands—the Palestinians—have been locked in a bitter and unequal fight against occupation troops in the streets of villages and cities. Occupation authorities have ordered Army units to disperse demonstrators. Trigger-happy Zionists open fire without warning at throngs of unarmed people. Political observers in many countries are unanimous in their assessment of the current developments—never since the June 1967 aggression has terror reached such proportions and intensity on these lands.

With every passing day international support is growing for the Palestinians' cause. People around the world are calling for an end to terror and killings on the occupied Arab lands and demand that the just grievances of the arab people of Palestine be met.

However, Tel Aviv is pretending not to hear all this. Moreover, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin Wednesday called for toughening repressive operations against the Palestinians, sent reinforcements to the occupation corps and urged a "decisive and prompt" use of arrests and deportations. In his opinion, this is the only way for establishing peace and tranquility on the occupied Arab lands.

On the same day the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement alleging pharisaically that there were no grounds for holding Tel Aviv responsible for the deplorable events in Gaza, Judaea and Samaria (this is how Zionists are calling the (?West Bank) of the River Jordan). Israel, according to that statement, was sparing no efforts to bring peace and tranquility to the Middle East.

The events of the past two weeks have strikingly demonstrated that Israeli occupation troops indeed spare no ammunition and teargas. Peace, Israeli style, is the banishment of the indigenous population from their native places, terror, imprisonment, deportations and shootings. Arab peoples, the Palestinians first and foremost, reject this king of "peace."

At this time of difficulty for the entire Arab people of Palestine, demands are coming from all parts of this planet for a United Nations-sponsored international conference on the Middle East. One of the aims of such a forum is to resolve as soon as possible the key problem of the Middle East crisis—the Palestinian problem. It is possible to resolve that issue on a just and lasting basis only through negotiations in which all the sides concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization—the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—should take part. Only then will the land of Palestine become a land of peace for all peoples inhabiting it.

East Europe

Leadership Telegram Sent on Romanian Anniversary

LD290917 Moscow TASS in English 0858 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 29 TASS—The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers have addressed a

telegram to the Romanian leaders expressing heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of proclamation of Romania as the people's republic.

The telegram notes that the accords on broadening and deepening cooperation between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Romania in all fields of bilateral relations and in the international arena, which were reached in the course of the Soviet-Romanian summit talks in May 1987, have given a fresh impetus to cooperation between the two countries.

Army Daily on Reality of Two Germanies

PM231037 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Dec 87 Second Edition p 3

[Manki Ponomarev "International Observer's Answer to Reader's Letter": "Indisputable Realities"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Nikiforov raises the following questions in his letter to the editorial office:

"There exist, as everyone knows, the GDR and the FRG. And yet in conversations and sometimes even in the press, one hears simply 'Germany.' Surely this is not right? And something else. What is all the fuss being made in the West around the so-called 'Berlin Wall?'"

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Observer Manki Ponomarev replies to our newspaper's reader Lt Col Ye. Nikiforov.

You are right, Yevgeniy Vitalyevich, there do exist two sovereign and independent states—the GDR and the FRG. They emerged from the ruins of Hitler's "Reich," to whose rout the Soviet Union made a decisive contribution. [passage omitted]

Since then, the existence of the two German states has been an indisputable reality of our time. Their development took different paths. The GDR working people, led by the SED, embarked on the path of building socialism and have now achieved outstanding successes along this path. In close alliance with the USSR and the other socialist countries, they are persistently fighting for the further dynamic development of the national economy on the basis of assimilating the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution. The GDR plays an active part in the activity of CEMA and the Warsaw Pact. As Comrade E. Honecker emphasized, the first worker-peasant state in German history, standing always and invariably shoulder to shoulder with the USSR, resolutely advocates peace and socialism.

Development in the FRG took a different path. The Federal Republic remains an imperialist state where a major influence is exerted by the military-industrial complex, which is banking on the arms race. It is a country where the danger of revanchism and the possibility of a resurrection of neo-Nazism have not been eliminated. At the same time, the FRG is a country with a mighty movement of peace-loving forces, where even a significant proportion of the big bourgeoisie is today facing up to peaceful coexistence.

This is today, but for a long time the FRG was not prepared to recognize the European borders established after World War II or the socialist German state. The FRG's policy now contains a somewhat larger portion of realism. The 1970 Moscow treaty signed by the USSR and the FRG drew a line beneath the past and opened the gate to the future. This treaty, like the FRG's treaties with the other socialist countries and the Helsinki Final Act, enshrined the political-territorial realities in Europe and corresponds with the requirements of stability and peaceful development on the continent.

Relations between the GDR and the FRG are also developing more and more. A treaty was concluded between these states in 1972, with both sides recognizing that neither could represent the other in international affairs nor act on its behalf. The treaty regularized relations between the GDR and the FRG as two sovereign and equal states, independent of one another.

The two social systems existing on German soil have a certain influence on one another. During E. Honecker's recent visit to the FRG the whole world heard a confirmation of the inviolability of borders and of the fact of the existence of two German states independent of one another. The world was given yet another confirmation that the entire system of treaties created in 1970-1973 meant recognition under international law of the realities established in Europe as a result of World War II and of postwar development, and in particular of the inviolability of European borders, including the GDR borders.

Thus, Yevgeniy Vitalyevich, today there are no grounds at all to speak of Germany as something whole. There can only be talk of two states on German soil—the socialist GDR and the bourgeois FRG. There are absolutely no grounds to speak about some open "German question," as people in the West sometimes try to do or about the alleged existence of some sort of special relationship between the two German states, or to claim that they are not foreign to each other. Nobody can refute an indisputable fact: There exist two German states with different sociopolitical systems. Each of them has its own values. They have both learned lessons from history, and each can make its own contribution to the cause of Europe and peace. The reality of the existence of two German states, of two German nations—socialist in the GDR and bourgeois in the FRG—must be the starting point.

Now for West Berlin and the "Berlin Wall." West Berlin's political status is defined by the four-power agreement signed by the USSR, the United States, Britain, and France in September 1971. The agreement's

central provision is the stipulation that Berlin's Western sectors "are, as before, not a component of the FRG and will not be governed by it in the future."

The "Berlin Wall" has been one of the White House chief's favorite hobbyhorses since June this year, following R. Reagan's visit to West Berlin. In his speeches, especially the one in Los Angeles, he issued a call to "bring down this wall." But these appeals are speculative. The sovereign state of the GDR has the sovereign right to protect its choice and to prevent interference in internal affairs. And West Berlin was, for a long time, the source of such interference—economic, political, and ideological. An end was put to that in August 1961 when, by agreement with the other Warsaw Pact states, the GDR Government took firm measures to protect its border with West Berlin, including in Berlin itself.

The split of Germany was effected by the Western powers despite the accords reached in Yalta and Potsdam. Thus, the "wall" appeared long before 1961. Now it is a reality, and realities must be treated as such. This is the reality of postwar development: Berlin, which is 750 years old, has turned in our time into two large cities—West Berlin, and Berlin, capital of the GDR.

This, in my view, is the appropriate answer to your questions, Yevgeniy Vitalyevich.

Jaruzelski Concluding Speech at Plenary Meeting

LD172031 Moscow TASS in English 2038 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Warsaw December 16 TASS—Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, delivered a concluding speech at the plenary meeting here. He said that progress had been achieved in the restructuring drive in the past few years nearly in all spheres of life. In accordance with the decisions of the 10th PUWP Congress the party thought and activities were currently focused on the concept of the second stage of economic reform, further political reform and the role of the party in the process of these changes. An integral programme of continuing and extending the process of socialist renewal was created. The party, which has formulated it and took the responsibility for its realisation, once again convincingly proved that it is a motive force capable of translating into reality the historic aspirations of the working class and its allies in the process of national development. During the work of the two parts of the plenary meeting the cohesion around the general line of the party clearly manifested itself.

In the course of socialist renewal on the platform of national accord, the Polish leader said, there emerged a large coalition in support of the reform. Twelve million citizens, which at the referendum spoke in favour of rapid and radical changes in the economy and social life, are a great potential and especially valuable guarantee of success of the reform. Those who occupied a different position, can and should be persuaded by facts, practice and a real improvement in the situation. Full implementation of the reform must change the conditions of work and life of the entire population, each family and each citizen. The referendum must become a permanent feature of socialist democracy, including regional and local levels.

Today we extend our hand once again to all those patriotic, constructive forces and individuals who, preserving their ideological peculiarities, recognise at the same time the national and state interests of socialist Poland. Only irreconcilable enemies are left outside this framework which has never been as wide as it is today. Those who earlier supported discriminatory measures directed against the Polish economy and the entire society are currently trying to hamper the policy aimed at strengthening and developing the country. The image of modern Poland consists of many phenomena and facts, but special attention is drawn to how we can solve our national problems in a calm atmosphere and with the feeling of responsibility.

The referendum gave rise to a need to make certain changes in the programme of the implementation of the second stage of the economic reform. One thing is clear: The line of reform will not be abandoned. The crucial stage in implementing the decisions of the 10th PUWP Congress begins. New prospects and tasks are a powerful impulse to the development of party thought, for the ideological work. No one will build the future for us, Wojciech Jaruzelski said in conclusion.

The plenum passed a resolution on the report of the Political Bureau of the PUWP Central Committee "The Extension of Socialist Renewal—Prerequisite for the Accelerated Development of Poland," which expressed the approval for the proposed programme of profound political and economic reforms.

Organisational issues were considered. In connection with transfer to other work the plenary meeting relieved Bogumil Ferensztajn of his duties as alternate member of the Political Bureau of the PUWP Central Committee, Henryk Bednarski of his duties as secretary of the PUWP Central Committee at their requests. Deputy Speaker of the Sejm Mieczyslaw Rakowski was elected member of the Political Bureau of the PUWP Central Committee and Manfred Gorywoda, first secretary of the PUWP Committee in Katowice region, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the PUWP Central Committee.

IZVESTIYA Cites Polish Press on Emigration

PM211441 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent L. Toporkov dispatch under the rubric "From the Pages of the Polish Press": "Standing in Line for Mirages"]

[Text] Warsaw—It is one of the questions dictated by life which are now being debated by the Polish public and the press. I am talking about emigration.

The problem is complex, difficult, and not without emotions and, whatever people may say, affects national dignity; you cannot categorize it as a minor misunderstanding. Why does it exist? Why has it become possible at all? Journalists, sociologists, and statesmen are pondering this. You cannot answer this question concisely.

In recent years whenever the word "Poland" was mentioned, the word "crisis" was automatically associated with it. But this word now does little to explain the situation, for, despite the truly dramatic consequences of the crisis of the eighties, specialists and indeed the "man in the street" are coming to the conclusion that the state of the Polish economy is better than it is reputed to be. Things are on the mend and the implementation of the second phase of the economic reform promises resolute changes. Yet people are still leaving. All sorts of people, for all sorts of reasons.

What motivates people to decide to leave? What benefits do Italy, the United States, France, the FRG, and all kinds of "voices" promise them? You would think it is not all that easy to make what may be the most crucial decision in your life—the decision to go to a foreign country and break with your homeland. Some say a desire to earn money. Others justify their action by the desire to live "in conditions of freedom," like, say, the five ballet dancers from the Warsaw National Theater who remained in Canada during a recent tour. As if someone were threatening them with prison for performing pirouettes one way rather than another. A third group cannot find any reason: Everyone else is going, why not me? There are also those who try to cover themselves with the figleaf of cheap philosophy: "I am leaving because I want to realize my potential." A weasel word behind which, as Prof S. Kieniewicz said in the Catholic newspaper TYGODNIK POWSZECHNY, primitive egoism lurks. Not so long ago the press wrote about the fate of soccer player Andrzej Buncol, who was contracted to play for a West German club. There he saw that he would earn more if he took German citizenship and became a German. Home is where the pay is best.

The pay is best.... For some people the whole meaning of life lies in these words. And it turns out that by their high-handedness, impudence, and their desire to speculate in the fate of "victims of the regime" they shape the opinion formed of the entire Polish emigre community. "Beyond the Borders of Shame"—this was the headline given to a report published by ZYCIE WARSZAWY, which talked about a makeshift camp set up in the region of the well-known Villa Borghese park by those who have abandoned Poland in search of a "better life." They sleep on the grass in the open air, drink water from the Renaissance fountains, and wash their clothes in them, and the Mercedeses, Volvos, and Polonezes they brought with them from Poland stand alongside with their trailers. Speaking with one Mercedes owner near the bust of the author of the famous "Quo Vadis" (a wise question!), the correspondent shares his impressions: "Here is the sad paradox of 1987: A rich man, well-established in his own country, wants even more and has hopes of becoming an entrepreneur in the West, therefore he tries to play the role of a pauper and to blackmail the local authorities by his behavior, squandering not only national, but also human dignity."

This "lumpen" in a Mercedes represents, so to speak,the world of the newfound nouveaux riches, who are not averse to grabbing what they can where they can. Who are the people who are still cooling their heels in the Eternal City, waiting for their fate to be decided? As the correspondent writes, a considerable number of the refugees, and there were approximately 8,000 of them there at the end of the summer, are the young people who can often be seen in Polish cities hanging around beer stands. All kinds of rascals, smooth operators, and swindlers. They are marked by particular impudence and persistence. These are the most striking qualities. They wash the windows of passing automobiles without asking the owners' consent, wearing large crosses on their chests, they stand in line for soup for the poor, they hang around the Rome police station wearing "Solidarity" badges and demanding political asylum, and they give free interviews to local reporters, calling themselves "former Poles" or complaining that they were not born in the West.

Summing up last year, an observer from the popular weekly POLITYKA notes: "The world press has written more about the Poles than about anyone, and no one but our people has set up such a gypsy encampment around this lovely Roman park. The influx of people who do not want to return to their homeland is so great that it even evokes concern in the Vatican, which is also occupied by our people."

The author is referring to the statement by Bishop Szczepan Wesoly, responsible in the Vatican for Polish emigres (there is, it turns out, such a post), who called in alarm for visa regulations to be tightened for Poles. An interesting statement. Not so long ago the West was literally seething with indignation that the Polish authorities were curtailing emigration and were not conducting the passport policy that the West would like. Its efforts have boomeranged, so to speak. Poland has introduced such liberal rules regarding emigration that even the West is wringing its hands. This is being done, it says, specially to spite it and create problems for it. Now the lines in Poland are outside Western consulates rather than militia establishments.

"Waiting in Line for Paradise"—an interesting reportage has been printed in POLITYKA. The weekly's reporter talks with people seeking visas at the U.S. Consulate. An elderly lady is eager to tell her life story. She was already past 40 when she traveled to the United States for the first time to see a friend, leaving several children at home. She obtained a job at a pen factory where she worked for 3 and 1/2 years. Sixteen hours a day! On Saturdays and Sundays she worked to earn extra money in a restaurant. No sleep or leisure. One can only

guess how this woman would have reacted if someone had suggested that she work overtime in her native Poland. The fuss would have been incredible, and she would have spoken with righteous anger about rights and freedoms. Over there there is silence and the fear of displeasing the boss. Her neighbor in the line also recalled how hard he worked in the States: "unofficially." Four of them lived in one room. They did not complain, although they did not know one another. A Polish woman who had also left (her three children and husband) to earn some money did the washing for them and cooked their meals. From lofty motives, she "spent nights protecting each of her companions in turn from AIDS," as the report delicately put it.

But what dramas unfold at the gate of the consulate! The refusal of a visa is seen as a blow from fate.

In the early eighties, 250,000 people emigrated from Poland. The wave of new emigration has, alas, not subsided. According to press data, U.S. Consulates in Poland alone issue approximately 30,000 tourist visas annually. One in four "tourists" remains in America. In recent years up to 50,000 Polish refugees have settled in France, 30,000 in Canada, 25,000 in Australia, and nearly 16,000 in West Berlin. Even 6,000 of them have gone to the RSA. What has become of the "principles" of the former inveterate fighters for freedom and democracy? A principle which was not previously publicized but which has proved to be the most important has won out: Money talks.

But often it turns out that they have money but are still not happy. The old emigre press warns the greenhorns: The West allows you to live but it does not make it easy for you. J. Lazarowicz, a former inhabitant of Warsaw, now an engineer in South Africa, who emigrated with his family from Poland in 1980, has found this. Why? Because, he writes in his letter full of confusion to POLITYKA, the disturbances in the country have threatened to reduce his standard of living. "After a few years of hardship and difficult work," the engineer complains, "we got what we had had at home: a television, a washing machine, a refrigerator, and things like that. But we are growing increasingly homesick and new problems are cropping up. Our elder daughter, when she is about to to go to school, asks me: What shall I say when I am asked whether I am a Pole or a South African? Indeed, what is she? By traveling we have ended up without a state of our own." Yes, emigration has not made life easy. It has brought spiritual unease, for people are devoting their effort and knowledge not to their own country but to some strange uncle. As the Poles say, an absentee is always wrong. The motherland will get by without him, and it is bitter to realize this.

Many emigres are coming to ponder this situation increasingly often and are contemplating their unsympathetic and thankless role as outsiders, social oddities, in foreign lands. We are not talking about former members of the former "Solidarity"—they are in the pay of the West. As the emigre journal KONTAKT writes, it is still possible to earn some cash at the "Solidarity" firm. It is the ordinary person who has fallen for the mirages of antisocialist propaganda, the brain drain, and the drain of skilled specialists and intellectual potential who is the topic of study and concern in the Polish press.

Last summer Italian newspapers reported that this country's unemployment had reached 3.21 million. It is incredible but true: It was then that Polish pseudo-unemployed marched through the streets of the Italian capital with banners demanding work. In Poland the picture was quite different: 502,000 vacant jobs awaited workers and specialists.

Surrealism, as journalists here like to say in such circumstances. How can we explain this? Probably only by that egoism which Prof S. Kieniewicz mentioned. The Polish Episcopate has also expressed concern in this connection. We, Cardinal J. Glemp said to a PAP correspondent, would like to understand what prompts these people to choose a path which is indescribably difficult and sometimes simply humiliating.

The Polish press is now writing a great deal about the open passport policy practiced by the authorities, which permits those who left their homeland without thinking to return home at any time. The reforms under way in the country are expanding the opportunities for Polish citizens to find a job which suits their inclination, qualifications, and talents and which enables them to earn better money and demonstrate initiative and enterprise. Emigration and the complex of problems associated with it have ceased to be a shameful topic in mass media organs and at meetings of working people. For example, a meeting recently took place in the "Park" Club between the capital's students and S. Ciosek, secretary of the PZPR Central Committee. The topic was plainly stated: "To Stay or To Emigrate?" These words were written in large letters right across the wall. The meeting was shown on television.

The discussion was frank, in the spirit of glasnost, with no anger or accusations. The young people spoke frankly. Some said: "How can I leave? My country, my family, and my friends are here. I am needed here and not anywhere else." Others answered without hesitation: "We want to leave." Another group expressed a wish to see the world but, of course, to work at home. It is pleasing that most of them favored a decision in line with their civic aspirations: To stay and work for the good of their fatherland. They knew that an absentee is always wrong.

CSSR's Chnoupek Writes on Disarmament

PM290831 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 51, 20 Dec 87 p 5

[Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek article: "Break Through Forts of Nuclear Deterrence"]

[Text] I must confess frankly that I'm at a loss to find the words to describe everything one feels, experiences and has at heart. On this occasion the laconic, reticently

protocol-like language of a diplomat is not the best of ways to express one's thoughts. Just two years ago even those who were staunchly and consistently fighting for the new thinking and for restructuring of international relations, could not fail to take into account the opinions of sceptics who declared that nuclear disarmament was an illusion, a chimera, an impossible romantic dream in a world full of distrust.

However, the dream has been translated into reality. Moreover, this was done most impressively and convincingly. The world, which, until now, had been exclusively arming, is beginning to learn how to disarm. Since December 8, 1987, Europe has become much less dangerous, though it is still far from being safe. The consistency, dynamics, sincere diligence and the brimming energy, which the Soviet leadership demonstrated when making this step, quite correctly arouses admiration and the hopes of all humanity for better times. It has brought about the conditions for a chain reaction in all fields of disarmament. There are good grounds for believing that the policy of peaceful coexistence, which was started by Lenin with the Decree on Peace, will also acquire new dimensions in the era of the demilitarization of humanity's life, in which we believe so much.

I'd like to stress especially that the present-day progress could not have taken place if there were no unity of opinions and the closest coordination of action among the socialist countries. This has been appraised in the communique of the summit meeting in Berlin, at which Comrade Gorbachev talked about the results of his talks with President Reagan in Washington.

I see the main obstacles, blocking the way to the elimination of nuclear arms, in the old thinking. In the egoistical interests of those who connect their own prosperity, influence and profit with the obsolescent power policy and who put their own narrow selfish interests higher than the interests of their own people and of humanity as well. In the opinions which declare that security can be guaranteed only through "nuclear deterrence". In the blindness which does not realize that such a vicious concept is fraught with the same danger for all. In the ignoring which either doesn't understand or doesn't want to understand that the high ideals of humanism, the ideals of peace, freedom and grasping of the value of human life should become the basis of practical policy in our time.

The treaty on the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons is only the first step towards disarmament. If the breakthrough has been achieved (and this time it has been achieved with opponents of nuclear disarmament and of disarmament in general), then it is necessary not to wait but to carry on adding to what has already been achieved. We must activate all disarmament tools and invigorate all the forums on disarmament, to fight for world public opinion. We must prove in practical deeds that the future of all the nations, and of the entire civilization as well, will be guaranteed only in peace based not on a parity of armed forces but on the balance of interests. It must be done so that an agreement is signed during the forthcoming year on the reduction by half of the strategic attack weapons within the context of securing strategic stability. So that we would come up to the agreement on the banning of nuclear weapons tests. To complete work on the convention on the elimination of chemical weapons, where quite tangible progress has already been made. And to reduce the level of conventional weapons. These are all the inevitable intermediary stages on the road towards building a world without weapons.

Czechoslovakia is bound to nuclear disarmament as a country located on the line of touching of the two military-political blocs, because the nearest battery of the US Pershing 2 missiles is only 160 km away from our border.

We are among the nine countries on which the USSR-USA Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles has a direct bearing, because Soviet battlefield tactical missiles, i.e., shorter-range missiles, were deployed on our territory in accord with the agreement between the Czechoslovak and USSR governments. This was done in reply to the deployment in Western Europe of US Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.

Our government consented to US inspections of Soviet military projects on CSSR territory where these missiles are deployed. We've already prepared the documents for regulating such verification and signed them in Berlin.

Furthermore, together with the GDR we proposed to create in Central Europe a corridor free of nuclear weapons, and a chemical weapons-free zone. The realization of this proposal would lead to a reduction in the danger of the military confrontation in this, most sensitive region in Europe, and a strengthening of mutual confidence and security of European countries. This would be a practical step in the direction of the elimination of nuclear weapons all over Europe.

Europe, which has been devastated by wars many times, can and must give the whole world an example of peaceful coexistence.

CTK Reports on Talks at USSR Foreign Ministry

LD141820 Prague CTK in English
1650 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow Dec 14 (CTK)—Two-day talks between Soviet and Czechoslovak officials covering a broad range of issues were concluded at the Soviet Foreign Ministry on Monday, the Soviet news agency TASS reported.

It said Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, Deputy Foreign Ministers Vadim Loginov and Igor Rogachev and Czechoslovakia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes attended the talks.

Hungary's M. Nemeth Holds Economic Talks

LD231406 Budapest MTI in English 1255 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, December 23 (MTI)—Miklos Nemeth, secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, paid a visit to the Soviet Union from December 21 to 24 on the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He was accompanied by Imre Kovacs, head of the Economic Policy Department of the Central Committee.

Miklos Nemeth held talks with Nikolay Slyunkov, member of the CPSU Political Committee, secretary of the Central Committee, and Vadim Medvedev, secretary of he Central Committee. The discussions, marked by a cordial comradely atmosphere, were concerned with the national economic situation of the two countries and topical economic policy tasks of the two parties. There was an exchange and scientific relations, particularly the course of the implementation of high-level principal agreements and measures facilitating economic and social advance. Issues related to the modernization of cooperation within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance were also discussed. The parties agreed to expand the consultation of competent party organs on streamlining the economic management systems, in the framework of inter-party cooperation. The delegation met other leading officials of the CPSU Central Committee as well.

The talks were attended by Janos Barabas, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Hungarian Embassy in Moscow.

Miklos Nemeth is to return to Budapest on Thursday.

PRAVDA Report on Visit

PM281905 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "At the Invitation of the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] M. Nemeth, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, and a group of senior officials of the MSZMP Central Committee visited Moscow on 21-24 December at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Hungarian comrades met with N.N. Slyunkov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. In the course of thorough, friendly talks they briefed each other on topical questions of the implementation of decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 13th MSZMP Congress and subsequent plenums of the two fraternal parties' central committees in the sphere of economic policy. Current and future tasks in Soviet-Hungarian economic, scientific, and technical cooperation were examined in light of accords achieved at summit level. Fundamental aspects of the two countries' participation in the collective work to improve the mechanism of socialist economic integration and the activity of CEMA were discussed.

The representatives of the MSZMP also had meetings in CPSU Central Committee departments and visited industrial enterprises in Moscow and the exhibition "Machine-Building for the 70th Anniversary of Great October" at the Exhibition of National Economic Achievements of the USSR.

Hungarian Consumer Goods Prices Raised

LD272246 Moscow TASS in English 2025 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Budapest December 27 TASS—A report by the Hungarian Council of Ministers was published here on price changes planned for the next year, as well as on a rise in payments of benefits to population from social funds. The report points out that the level of consumer prices in Hungary will rise by 7.6 per cent from January 1, 1988. Prices will be raised, for instance, for meat and dairy products and children's clothing. At the same time prices for adult clothing will be cut. Next year the level of consumer prices in the country will rise, on the whole, by 15 per cent. The report points out that these measures are taken in the interests of improving the balanced nature of the national economy, accelerating modernization of the economic structure and raising economic efficiency.

Cash payments from social funds will be increased by 22 per cent, above all for pensioners and families with children, to preserve stability of the material position.

SFRY's Dizdarevic Sends INF Message to USSR, U.S.

LD282029 Moscow TASS in English 2009 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Belgrade December 28 TASS—The Soviet-American Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles is a move replying to long-standing wishes of the non-aligned countries to initiate elimination of nuclear weapons to achieve general and complete disarmament, says a message by Raif Dizdarevic, federal secretary of foreign affairs of Yugoslavia, to Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR foreign minister, on behalf of foreign ministers of the Mediterranean non-aligned countries. Today the document was handed over through Viktor Maltsev, USSR ambassador to Yugoslavia.

The non-aligned countries of the Mediterranean, the message says, are ready to make their contribution to the development of relations in the region and hope that the Mediterranean will not be bypassed by the positive influence of the treaty and that future negotiations between the USSR and the USA will also cover questions of cutting nuclear and other weapons in the Mediterranean.

A similar message was handed over to U.S. State Secretary George Shultz through the U.S. ambassador to Yugoslavia.

TANJUG Reports Zemljaric's Talks With Ryzhkov

LD232124 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2010 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, Dec 23 (TANJUG)—Soviet Prime Minister and Politburo Member Nikolay Ryzhkov conferred today in the Kremlin with Deputy Yugoslav Prime Minister Janez Zemljaric. Both sides favourably assessed the overall development of Yugoslav-Soviet ties and cooperation in the economic, scientific and technical fields.

Measures to further decrease the Soviet Union's 1.4 billion dollar deficit in trade with Yugoslavia, expected to be reduced by some 200 million dollars by the end of the year, figured high in Ryzhkov-Zemljaric talks.

Zemljaric underlined that the Yugoslav leadership and Government highly praised the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Eliminating Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles as the first step towards disarmament and the building up of international confidence and cooperation.

Oil Equipment Enterprise Set Up With SFRY

AU232029 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Documents on the founding of the first joint Yugoslav-Soviet enterprise with its center in (Bielogorod) have been signed in Moscow. This work organization was founded by the Sarajevo Energoinvest organization and the Soviet (Nathimautomatik) Production Association. The new enterprise was founded with joint capital and will produce (?turbine) oil flow meters and other oil processing industry equipment of the value of between $40 million and $50 million.

The signing of the documents was attended by Janez Zemljaric, FEC vice president, and Ivan Silayev, Soviet vice premier.

'Tito-Party' Exhibition Opens in Moscow

LD232231 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1919 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, Dec 23 (TANJUG)—An exhibition titled "Tito-Party" opened here today marking the 50th anniversary of the arrival of Josip Broz Tito at the head of the Yugoslav party.

Numerous political and public figures of Moscow attended the opening of the exhibition, the first of its kind in a foreign country.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Moscow Party Secretary Yuriy Krabasov, spoke about the late Yugoslav president saying that Tito's name was linked to all victories and achievements of the Yugoslav people.

Krabasov pointed out Tito's contribution on the international scene and said that he was one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement.

West Europe

FRG's Strauss Visits Moscow, Meets With Officials

Greeted at Airport

LD281600 Hamburg DPA in German 1509 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Moscow (DPA)—Franz-Josef Strauss, Bavarian minister-president and CSU [Christian Social Union] leader arrived in Moscow on Monday for his first visit to the USSR. Strauss flew the chartered twin-jet, nine-seat Cessna Citation himself as he landed at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. The CSU leader intends to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze this evening. [passage omitted]

At the airport, Strauss was welcomed by, among others, First Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Antonov and the head of the Third European Department of the Foreign Ministry, Aleksandr Bondarenko. Speaking to journalists, the 72-year-old Strauss said after landing that it had been a very interesting flight. The approach and landing in fog and light snowfall had been very difficult, however. The main focus of his political talks will be a "general political discussion," said Strauss. Since he was the guest of the foreign economic commission, it would include also science, culture, technology, and industry. He had been offered the chance to look around space centers and was pleased to be able to do so.

According to his party, among the topics for the CSU leader's talks in Moscow, in addition to disarmament and economic issues, is a pardon for 19-year-old pilot Mathias Rust, for which Strauss would be asking Gorbachev at the request of Rust's parents. Prior to his departure from Munich, Strauss would not comment on speculation that in his Moscow talks he would also be speaking in favor of the selling of the European Airbus to the Soviet state airline Aeroflot. Strauss is Chairman of Deutscher Airbus GmbH.

Received by Shevardnadze

LD282000 Moscow TASS in English 1932 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, foreign minister of the USSR, met Franz-Josef Strauss, prime minister of Bavaria (Federal

Republic of Germany) and chairman of the Christian-Social Union (CSU). Strauss arrived in Moscow on a visit at the invitation of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers.

In discussing issues of bilateral relations between the USSR and West Germany, Shevardnadze said that if one was to proceed from such objective factors as the two countries' geographic proximity, peculiarities of their economic development, from historical experience and traditions, a conclusion could be reached that given due account of mutual interests, primarily in the field of security, both West Germany and the USSR could attain a lot for themselves as well as for ensuring a peaceful future in Europe and the world over.

Strauss supported the idea of giving fresh impetus to Soviet-West German cooperation and stated the preparedness of Bavaria, which is known to be one of West Germany's most industrially advanced lands, for this undertaking.

The talk also touched upon matters pertaining to the situation in Europe and some regional issues.

More on Shevardnadze Talks

LD282230 Hamburg DPA in German 2113 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Moscow (DPA)—According to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in future disarmament measures the Soviet Union also intends to pay attention to the special German security interests. Theo Waigel, chairman of the Christian Social Union [CSU] Land group in the Bundestag, told journalists that Shevardnadze said this in Moscow this evening during a more than 2-hour meeting with Franz-Josef Strauss, Bavarian minister-president and CSU leader.

Waigel said the atmosphere was "exceptionally good, relaxed, and humorous." In addition to disarmament issues and economic topics, the exchange of views also concerned Afghanistan. On this Shevardnadze made it clear that this problem gives Moscow "no pleasure." He realizes that "invasion is easier than withdrawal."

In the talk Strauss expressed his criticism of the medium-range agreement, particularly in regard to the problem of the short-range missiles which threaten both German states, Waigel said. Shevardnadze replied: "I know what is worrying you." Shevardnadze also stressed the USSR's interest in further disarmament steps. Here there must be "no pause, no interval, no interruption." Following a reduction in strategic nuclear missiles and the banning and destruction of chemical weapons, the question of short-range missiles and conventional weapons must be tackled "point by point."

Strauss referred "very elegantly" and only indirectly to the case of amateur pilot Mathias Rust, whose parents had asked Strauss for his help in securing the early release of their son. Strauss said that he did not want "to raise the subject of Rust," to which Shevardnadze replied, laughing: "Which you have actually just done." [passage omitted]

Meets With Gorbachev

LD290828 Moscow TASS in English 0816 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 29 TASS—A meeting began in the Kremlin today between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Franz-Josef Strauss, prime minister of the Land of Bavaria (the Federal Republic of Germany) and chairman of the Christian-Social Union (CSU).

Strauss arrived in Moscow on Monday evening on a visit at the invitation of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Economic Talks With Kamentsev

LD290807 Moscow TASS in English 0734 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 29 TASS—Talks began in the Kremlin today between Vladimir Kamentsev, a deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Franz-Josef Strauss, prime minister of Bavaria (the Federal Republic of Germany) and chairman of the Christian-Social Union (CSU).

The West German guest arrived in Moscow Monday on a visit at the invitation of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

The talks are dealing with relations in economic, scientific and technological fields and trade between Soviet organizations and enterprises and organizations and firms in Bavaria.

Taking part in the talks were also Aleksay Antonov, a deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and other officials.

FRG's Kohl Interviewed on INF Treaty Significance

LD272257 Moscow TASS in English 1610 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Bonn December 27 TASS—The year 1987 goes out under the sign of peace. An important step was made on the way to disarmament: an agreement on destruction of a whole class of weapons—Soviet and U.S. intermediate- and shorter-range missiles—was reached for the first time in world history. This was said by West German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl in an interview with the newspaper "WEST AM SONNTAG". This should be followed, he pointed out, by a treaty on a considerable cut in strategic nuclear offensive weapons of the two great powers.

Along with this, the head of the government expressed West Germany's interest in the earliest prohibition of chemical weapons and fruitful negotiations on achieving a parity in conventional weapons and nuclear tactical systems at the lowest possible level.

West German President Richard von Weizsaecker pointed out in an interview with the same newspaper that the first East-West treaty on real disarmament was signed at the Soviet-American summit in Washington. It culminated a year filled with heated discussions on the policy of security and difficult negotiations.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, the leading opposition party, said in this connection to the newspaper "WELT AM SONNTAG" that quite recently the USSR and the USA had signed a treaty inspiring all with the hope. Nuclear weapons systems of great destructive power will be destroyed for the first time. The prominent political leader favoured following steps in disarmament, which will both contribute to strengthening security and will make it possible to cut military spending.

FRG's Genscher Comments on East-West Relations

LD282257 Moscow TASS in English 2210 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Bonn December 28 (TASS)—The Washington meeting between the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan was marked by a breakthrough towards genuine disarmament and by new thinking necessary for mankind's survival and for building East-West relations, says an article by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher released here today.

A whole category of armaments is abolished for good as a result of the signing of the Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, he writes. This is a success without parallel in the history of disarmament, the minister added. Simultaneously, he made attempts to make the impression that the credit for reaching the INF Treaty goes exclusively to NATO.

Touching upon the large-scale transformations under way in the USSR, Genscher noted their importance.

The West, he writes, faces the question of whether it should take a see-and-wait stance towards changes occurring in the USSR or check how they can be used to develop new, constructive relations between the East and the West. The Soviet Union which aspires for a comprehensive and long-term improvement of these relations should find the West as a constructive and responsible partner. If today, following decades of confrontation, it is possible to achieve a turn for the better, the West will make a mistake of a historic scope if it lets this chance slip away.

A deeper integration of the Soviet Union and CMEA into the world economy is in the West's interests, the minister went on. The development of East-West economic relations promotes stability and trust. Genscher declared for shunting outdated notions and the image of the USSR as a foe.

West Germany should realize and fill with specific content its responsibility for peace in Europe, which lies in West German-Soviet relations. The ground work for this is the Moscow Treaty between the USSR and West Germany, the long-term agreement on economic cooperation between the two countries and the Final Act of the European Conference in Helsinki, Genscher stressed in conclusion.

France, UK Conduct Escort Operations in Gulf

LD272319 Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] [Word indistinct] December 27 (TASS)—British and French Navy ships began escorting vessels of other countries in the Persian Gulf where 26 merchant ships came under attack in December alone as a result of the tanker war between Iran and Iraq. Earlier, in line with the course officially proclaimed by London and Paris, British and French combatant ships escorted only vessels flying their states' flags.

A British frigate escorted yesterday a convoy of five oil tankers led by the over 500,000-ton super tanker registered as "ESSO Atlantic" and heading to the north of the Persian Gulf, AP news agency reported. The convoy also has two tankers belonging to Saudi Arabia and one to Panama. A guided-missile frigate of the U.S. Navy escorted the convoy at some distance.

Another convoy of ships, which is composed of two French-registered tankers and two Liberain oil tankers, is steaming southward under the escort of a French Navy destroyer.

On Friday, British Army helicopters joined forces with U.S. Navy helicopters in the operations to rescue the crew of the South Korean ship which was set ablaze in an Iranian gunboat attack. This freighter and also a Saudi-flagged oil tanker which was heavily damaged in a supposedly Iranian gunboat attack were towed to nearest ports for repairs.

The growing scope of escort operations by British and French warships in the Persian Gulf is the cause of increasing concern among shipowners who fear reply measures from Iran, AP points out. It quotes an official of a ship company operating in the Persian Gulf as saying that the worst should be expected now.

Madrid' YA Cites Soviet Envoy on Disarmament

PM231522 Madrid YA in Spanish 17 Dec 87 p 14

[Interview with Soviet Roving Ambassador Igor Andropov by Enrique Serbeto in Madrid on 16 December]

[Excerpt] Madrid—[Introductory passage omitted] [Serbeto] What impression did you gain from your meeting with the Spanish foreign minister?

[Andropov] I met with Minister Fernandez Ordonez and with members of the prime minister's personal staff. The meetings were very intensive and fruitful, especially on the subject of CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's Washington visit and his meetings with U.S. President Ronald Reagan. In these meetings I was able to observe that in Spanish-Soviet relations, there are a whole range of issues on which our two countries' viewpoints are either the same or to some extent similar. This is why it seems natural to the Soviet side to inform Spain of the results of Gorbachev's Washington visit, and it is also normal for us to seek an exchange of impressions.

[Serbeto] A controversy has arisen in the West over the strategic situation resulting from the INF agreement, and it is being said that West Europe faces greater danger now that it depends solely on the ICBM deterrent. What is your opinion?

[Andropov] As you know, there are also people in West Europe and Spain who believe that arms reductions are steps in an entirely new direction, beyond what we have hitherto understood disarmament to mean. This is one reason why I find it difficult to follow the argument of those who believe that eliminating shorter- and medium-range missiles, that is, the missiles designed for Europe, increases instability on this continent, since exactly the opposite is true.

Economic Problems [subhead]

[Serbeto] Nevertheless, from the Western viewpoint, the Soviet determination to reach this INF agreement has been attributed to two causes. The first is the U.S. Government's desire to maintain military parity with the USSR, and the second is the Soviet Government's need for greater economic resources.

[Andropov] We will start with the second question. I cannot recall our ever having put forward disarmament initiatives that have been interpreted as they really were. They have always been said to be in response to a Soviet weakness, which is not so. Nevertheless, it is of course easier for us to resolve our domestic problems under peaceful conditions worldwide, but this does not mean that we are experiencing a crisis or pre-crisis situation. As for the first cause, it must be said that the Soviet proposals were based on a new political thinking, while your analysis is part of the old thinking whereby the only response to force is force. However, we do not base our principles at all on American pressures.

[Serbeto] I would like you to summarize for me what matters relating to human rights will be affected by the restructuring policy.

[Andropov] This is a difficult question. There is a growing opinion in the USSR that there are some misconceptions in the West about the processes under way in the Soviet Union whereby the steps we are now taking supposedly conform to their own ideas. This is not so, however. The fact is that profound and positive changes are happening in our country, although we are also encountering major reservations on the part of the system itself. Gorbachev recently talked about the great deal that has been done in the USSR on the road to democratization, for instance in the field of legislation and its integration within international judicial frameworks. This is something that is not fully realized in some Western countries. However, some people want to reduce humanitarian issues to matters relating to the free exit from and entry to the country, and it must be stressed that this will continue to be governed by current Soviet legislation.

NATO Seeks Increased Presence in Norwegian Sea

PM231315 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent I. Ivanov "Pertinent Remarks": "Atlanticists' Intrigues"]

[Text] Oslo—Speaking recently to students at the Institute of Military Information, Norwegian General Werner Christie noted unequivocally that Norway's so-called bases policy has become irrevocably outmoded and is in need of changes. On joining NATO, Norway stipulated that there would be no nuclear weapons on her territory and also no foreign bases. If Werner Christie is now militating for a review of the bases policy, he is talking about the possibility of creating such bases in Norway, no less.

How did the general justify his demand? In his words, during the 39 years that Norway has been in NATO the situation in the northern region has changed so that Norwegians cannot get by without the help of their allies. Especially since, he said, the principle of the bases policy is an exception to NATO rules. If Norway rejects it, then the people of the north will take this calmly, Christie assured his audience.

We will not try to guess the reaction of the people of the north, although the general did his utmost to persuade his audience that the threat comes from the Soviet side and that the Norwegians are allegedly defenseless. All this is a repetition of old propaganda theses.

The Soviet initiatives put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Murmansk are aimed at reducing the level of military confrontation and strengthening the climate of trust and security in Northern Europe. For the generals to accept them means renouncing the thesis of the Soviet threat, which has served for almost 4 decades as justification for NATO strategy on the northern front.

It is no secret that since the first day that Norway joined NATO, the Atlanticists have done everything possible to nullify the principles of its proclaimed bases policy. Under cover of arguments about a so-called "crisis situation," Washington has managed not only to create heavy arms dumps in Trondelag and sign a secret agreement in Oslo on the use of Norwegian airfields by USAF squadrons but also to expand the borders of its warships' operations. Thus, the undermining of the country's foreign policy began long ago. If General Werner Christie is openly calling for the renunciation of the bases policy, then this is no accident.

Scandinavian observers see in this a direct link with the discussion about a new U.S. strategy in the Norwegian Sea, which is showing no signs of abating in Oslo. Sverre Jervell in his book "The Game Around the Norwegian Sea" writes that increasing the U.S. squadron in this area may have a negative impact on the country's security. Storting Deputy T. Koritzinsky indicated in his question to the defense minister that this decision will turn Norway into a hostage of U.S. nuclear strategy.

Not everyone holds this viewpoint. Norwegian generals voiced full approval for Pentagon plans when former U.S. Navy Secretary J. Lehman announced his desire to have U.S. aircraft carriers permanently stationed in the Norwegian Sea. Although more than 2 years have elapsed since then, people have not forgotten these plans. On the contrary, in the opinion of the Atlanticists, they acquired new urgency when the USSR and the United States reached agreement on the destruction in Europe of two classes of nuclear missiles. NATO strategists are demanding "compensation." In this case, they are talking above all about increasing the arsenal of cruise missiles, and this means a buildup in the combat squadron in the North Atlantic and the Norwegian Sea and creation of a coastal infrastructure for the U.S. Navy on the northern front.

Sweden's DAGENS NYHETER thinks the first steps in this direction have already been taken. The Pentagon has spent a tidy sum in order to get hold of detailed maps of the Norwegian coast and fiords where submarines can shelter. NATO is hurriedly modernizing and expanding dumps and airfields designed for combat squadrons. For the first time in many years, generals have paid attention to the island of Jan Mayen, which, in their opinion, has assumed special strategic significance. An airfield has already been constructed there. They are now planning to build a port.

Recently Storting Deputy Inge Lise Erve asked Norwegian Defense Minister J. Holst what Norway will do if NATO tries to nullify the first agreement in history on the destruction of nuclear missiles. Although J. Holst assured her that the government has clearly stated its support for steps designed to eliminate intermediate and shorter-range missiles, FRIHETEN writes that Inge Lise Erve's disquiet is shared by many other Norwegians.

INF Treaty Sparks Nordic Nuclear-Free Zone Debate
PM281919 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[M. Kostikov "International Notes": "Important Preconditions"]

[Text] The signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Medium-and Shorter-Range Missiles is regarded throughout the world as an important step toward real nuclear disarmament. This historic accord will give an additional fillip to the solution of other security problems, including the creation of a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe.

As is well-known, M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, speaking in Murmansk last fall, proposed a concrete program opening up new opportunities not only for creating a nuclear-free zone in the European north and a peace zone in the entire northern Arctic region but also for developing broad, mutually advantageous cooperation in various areas, taking into consideration the common interest of all northern countries.

The Soviet Union's "Arctic peace program," as they call it in Finland, has met with a broad, positive response in northern countries' political and public circles and among hundreds of thousands of peace supporters. But at the same time, this initiative has also encountered opposition from rightist pro-Atlantic circles, who remain in the thrall of old dogmas of the "cold war" period.

One of the leading political forces in the countries of the European north, the social democrats, advocate the need for thorough dialogue on security policy in the north and in the Arctic with regard to the whole complex of Soviet initiatives. S. Auken, leader of the Danish Social Democratic Party, thinks that the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles provides an opportunity to begin real talks on a reduction in strategic offensive armaments and all this in aggregate predetermines qualitatively new preconditions for resolving the question of a nuclear-free zone in the north.

At the same time conservative circles, and above all the NATO northern countries, greeted the USSR's "Murmansk initiatives" with arguments from the distant past. This sort of reaction mirrors the unconstructive approach to the problem of limiting military activity in the northern, Arctic region on the part of the United

States and the NATO leadership. Lengthy articles, interviews, and commentaries persistently pursue the thesis of the "USSR's desire to undermine the unity of the North Atlantic bloc" and the alleged fact that "creating a nuclear-free zone conflicts with NATO global strategy" and would allegedly give the Soviets the opportunity to subject militarily weak northern countries to massive political pressure. All this illustrates the continuing confrontation between opponents and supporters of the new political thinking, which takes into consideration realities of the modern world.

The results of the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Washington have indisputably lent topicality to the significance of the USSR's initiatives with regard to the northern, Arctic region. This is illustrated by the recent debates and voting in the Danish Folketing (parliament). The main question was a draft resolution put forward by the opposition Social Democratic Party, whose essence lies in its support for a complex of measures to ensure security in the north, reflected in the USSR's "Murmansk initiative." Despite attempts by representatives of government parties, including Foreign Minister U. Ellemann-Jensen, to present the aims of the Soviet proposals in a false light, the Danish Folketing adopted by a majority (of 74 to 59) a resolution obliging the government to secure talks between East and West on military-political detente in the northern region and the seas around it and the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the European north.

Finnish Minister on 2-Day Visit to Kiev

AU281307 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 22 Dec 87 p 3

[RATAU report: "Deepening Cooperation"]

[Text] A delegation of a working group of the permanent Finnish-Soviet intergovernmental commission for economic cooperation, headed by Minister S. Lehto, spent 2 days in Kiev recently. In the Ukrainian SSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the visitors met A.P. Mikhaylichenko, chairman of its presidium; A.T. Shevchenko, the republic's minister of the building materials industry; and S.I. Sokolenko, general director of the "Ukrimpeks" foreign trade association. Views were exchanged on the possibilities of expanding and deepening cooperation in the sphere of building materials production. Particular attention was paid to the most promising forms of mutually advantageous relations, including creation of joint enterprises.

The delegation members made a trip to the Ukrainian SSR Exhibition of National Economic Achievements and inspected the "Construction" and the "Metallurgy" pavilions.

S. Lehto, leader of the Finnish side of the commission's working group, said that the trip to Kiev was useful and interesting. He emphasized that Finnish-Soviet cooperation was constantly expanding and assuming new forms in all areas. The delegation members were satisfied that the Ukraine had ample possibilities to increase the part it played in these relations.

Trade Protocol for 1988 Signed With Finland

LD222144 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] A protocol on mutual deliveries of commodities for next year has been signed in Moscow between the USSR and Finland. The gross volume of mutual trade will amount to R4 billion. A certain growth in the exports of petrochemical and oil refinery products, natural gas, coal, and other commodities has been adumbrated.

Deliveries of machines, equipment, ships, timber and paper products, as well as other products from Finland will be continued.

Briefs

Cooperation With Spanish Writers

An agreement has been signed in Moscow on cooperation between the USSR Union of Writers and the national association of Spanish writers. The agreement provides for the expansion of personal contacts between writers from the two states. More Soviet literature will be translated and published in Spain, and Spanish literature in our country. Exchanges of delegations will become regular for participation in various forums, symposia, and creative discussions. [Text] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0204 GMT 25 Dec 87 LD*]

Ireland Trade Union Talks

Dublin December 23 TASS—A visit of the Soviet Trade Union delegation to Ireland, which ended today, is regarded here as a new stage in relations between Soviet and Irish trade unions. The Soviet delegation was headed by A.M. Yakovlev, member of the Presidium of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and chairman of the Central Committee of the Building and Building Materials Industry Workers' Union. A document issued at the end of the visit says that a plan of setting up a Soviet-Irish trade union commission was drawn up. The commission will contribute to developing bilateral relations. The Soviet delegation had stayed in Ireland at the invitation of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. [Text] [*Moscow TASS in English 2103 GMT 23 Dec 87 LD*]

Latin America & Caribbean

Pavlov Views Central American Peace Process

LD282246 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1825 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Moscow, 28 Dec (TASS)—The Guatemala agreements, signed by five of the region's heads of state, could be described as the main event of the year for Central America, Yuriy Pavlov, head of the first Latin American department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, declared. It is particularly important, he stressed in an interview to TASS correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy, that in spite of pessimistic forecasts, considerable progress has been achieved in implementing these agreements.

Without belittling the contribution of other participants in the Guatemala agreements, one should point out that Nicaragua has been setting the tone in implementing them and is continuing so to do. Nicaragua was the first country in the region to create a commission for national reconciliation, and the Sandinist government was the first to introduce the necessary measures toward democratization of the country's domestic political life.

"The latest break-off of talks with the Sandinist government by the contra leaders shows," the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs expert went on, "that the ring-leaders of the counterrevolution have not yet set themselves the goal of coming to agreement on national reconciliation and moving from armed to political struggle. They are continuing to deliver ultimatums, as if they had already won a military victory. However, there can be no question of any "victories." The contras exist only on handouts from the U.S. Administration, without which they themselves admit they would not hold out for even a month." [passage omitted]

"Another meeting between the presidents of the Central American countries is scheduled for 15 January. We hope," the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs expert stressed, "that this meeting will give fresh stimulus to the process of peacefully settling and implementing the Guatemala agreements."

Aviation Cooperation Protocol Signed With Cuba

PA231250 Moscow in Spanish to Cuba 0200 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] A scientific-technical cooperation protocol between the Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry and the Cuban Institute of Civil Aeronautics has been signed in this capital.

The signing of the protocol was preceded by talks between delegations of the two services. The talks considered matters related to scientific-technical cooperation, technical assistance for Cuban civil aviation, and development of air communications between the two countries. The delegations assessed cooperation during 1987 and highlighted the successful fulfillment of plans. All of this is reflected in the protocol, which contemplates increasing cooperation. Viktor Gorlov, Soviet deputy minister for civil aviation, discusses cooperation in 1988:

[Begin recording] This cooperation includes technical exploitation, aircraft repairs, the joint (?operation) of the airlines, and the sale of tickets. [end recording]

After describing the talks as positive, Gorlov pointed out that the two services have great tasks ahead, which require strengthening of ties; and that every effort will be made so cooperation can be even more effective next year. This is the present main concern.

Cuban pilots also agree with this. A Cuban delegation was headed by Pablo Rodriguez, first deputy chairman of the institute, who said this among other things:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] matters that cannot be overlooked. It will soon be 25 years since the first Aeroflot flight to Cuba. This will be a significant date. We must place ourselves at the time when Aeroflot broke the blockade imposed by U.S. imperialism; those were very difficult moments, when the value of friends and their interest and desire to help could truly be appreciated. We will be appreciative of the Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry, Aeroflot, and, in general, the Soviet Union for this cooperation program that will help raise Cuban civil aviation to the general aviation level of the Soviet Union and the other CEMA member countries. The 25th anniversary of Aeroflot's first flight to Cuba will be commemorated with a program in which we hope to have the presence of a delegation of the Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry, Aeroflot, and other aviation services that have helped us achieve a respectable level in the development of civil aviation in our country during all these years.[end recording]

Registration of Brazilian Communist Party Noted

LD251236 Moscow TASS in English 1222 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Brasilia December 25 TASS—The Brazilian Communist Party has been officially registered as a political party by the decision of the Superior Electoral Tribunal.

After the civilian government of President Jose Sarney de Araujo Costa came to power in the country, the Brazilian Communist Party received the right to take part in parliamentary elections as a result of which three of its candidates were elected to the national congress.

Throughout its 65-year-old history the party operated legally only for two years in 1945-1947. For the rest of the time it was outlawed and operated semi-legally. The legalization of the party is an important political victory by the Brazilian Communists.

Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front Greets Chileans

PY260131 Moscow in Spanish to Chile 2130 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text of New Years greetings from representatives of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front in Europe]

[Text] From abroad we greet 1988 with strength and combativeness. We greet the Chilean people, the working class that is the vanguard of the people, the Chilean men and women who with heroism and unity are building step by step their future and that of their children.

We greet the generous Chilean youths who have given lessons of unity and courage in combat. We greet all the anonymous patriots who are ready to fight with resolution and firmness against the farcical plebiscite of the tyranny. We greet the parties of the United Left, which are consistently overcoming obstacles preventing unity. We greet all the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] members who, from distant countries, contribute with their solidarity to our front. We greet our chiefs and fighters in Chile who are ready to deal decisive blows to the tyranny with the support of the masses of our people.

By remembering all the Front's fighters who have been killed in the struggle over the years, we reaffirm our commitment to multiply our efforts to fulfill our mission abroad, which consists of strengthening solidarity with the actions of the FPMR. We also have the task of making the democrats of the world aware of our people's right to revolt against injustice and oppression by remaining united and using all means of struggle at their disposal.

We are also committed to help morally and materially all our fighters in combat or in prison. Our international campaign entitled "A Radio Broadcast for Combat" will be carried out as a greeting to the fourth anniversary of the FPMR, which is the armed branch of the people. We will bridge distances, join hands, unite efforts, and struggle together to make 1988 a year of unity and combat.

Happy New Year, compatriots. The FPMR militants are alert and ready to join the masses for combat. Unity and decisive combat will give us victory. Compatriots, we still have a fatherland.

Political & Social

LE MONDE on Gromyko Meeting With Tatars

PM231436 Paris LE MONDE in French
23 Dec 87 p 3

["Main Extracts" from talks between Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and a delegation of Crimean Tatars on 27 July 1987]

[Text] After Mr Gromyko had asked his interlocutors to "express their concerns," a Tatar, who was a member of the Communist Party, spoke:

"We face accusations everywhere, we are told that the Tatars were traitors. We can say that the (wartime) decree still exists, although it was abolished in 1956 and then officially withdrawn. But, there is the second part of the decree, relating to the ban on Tatars returning to their native cities and the fact that the property which was confiscated will never be returned. However, officially, the Soviets have the right to live where they wish. Even now, the Crimean Tatars are still being hounded."

The speaker then cited a letter from Chiketov Asukhyanov, a Kolkhoz member from the village of Vidnyy in the Crimea:

"In February 1985, I moved from Uzbekistan with my wife and our six children. We bought a house. I was refused the official documents for the house and a residence permit. I was told: You are a Tatar, you sold the Crimea, you have already been expelled and you have no right to live here. On 3 June 1985, at 0500 hours, two police officers expelled us from the house. The children were sent to a home in Simferopol and, after 3 days, the militia sent us back to Uzbekistan separately."

A woman said: "How can you talk about moral education when the press compromises the party line, as it did in the TASS communique. What is happening in the Crimea and what the press writes is a reflection of Stalinist times. When this meeting was proposed to us, some of our young people were opposed to it. They had good reason."

Mr Gromyko: "We cannot and must not deceive anybody, or treat this matter lightly.... You will be given an answer when the matter has been examined, and that is not just a way of getting rid of you....

"Everything must be assessed. If it was a simple matter, we would not have set up a commission. We would have chosen two or three 'wisemen' and would have given them 3 days in which to find a solution. But there are no miracles. Christ does not walk on water today."

A Tatar said: "We regard what happened in 1944 as unacceptable."

Mr Gromyko: "You know, many things have changed since then, economically and ethnically.... What are we to do with all the people who live there? Are we to expel them all?"

Several Tatars said: "No, no."

An old Tatar: "When Andropov received us 20 years ago, we examined the same questions as today. Yuriy Vladimirovich (Andropov—LE MONDE editor's note) told us that there was no problem. We do not want the matter simply to be dropped, as it was in the past."

Mr Gromyko: "Andropov said good things, but no decision was made. We are talking in order to prepare a decision. We do not want to talk to you about an excellent plan, only to find than it cannot be implemented. There is no point in gaining a day, a week, or a month...."

The same Tatar: "At the time, I asked why representatives of our people were not included in the commissions. I was told: "We will inform you when the time comes."

Mr Gromyko: "There may have been dozens of those commissions, but there has never been one like this.... We would like you to trust us, and your doubts upset us."

A Tatar: "Can we delegate one of our comrades to whom you will give information, or will we be informed through the press?"

Mr Gromyko (laughing): "A correspondent or an informer? You have a plenty of imagination.... I will tell you this: There should be less deviousness, more frankness,.. (commotion) ...and a desire to reach a fair decision. Sincerity and truth are linked."

A Tatar: "Is the commission's aim to restore all our nation's violated rights, all the rights which it was granted in 1921?"

Mr Gromyko: "Why phrase your question so aggressively? I have told you: We would like to find a just solution. We are not going to the moon, we live on earth, in the Soviet Union...."

"What you thought desirable in the past—exerting pressure on the leadership, staying here longer, and demonstrating—now seems possible, but in fact it is worse for you, not for the leadership. You must control yourselves. The situation will deteriorate. Things will get worse. You must have realized that our people were trying to protect you."

A woman: "We do not want their protection.... The just solution for our people is the restoration of our nation in the Crimea. Our people will not accept any other solution."

Mr Gromyko: "I do not know how right you are to say that today."

The same woman: "With regard to the protection provided by your people, I would like to ask: Why have we been isolated in this way? It alarms us. The press is reporting such things about us that nobody will be surprised if somebody is cut to pieces in the street. It will be an act of proletarian internationalism."

Mr Gromyko: "Did the press write that? During your stay here, I have seen people from the Ukraine, and they have talked to me about the war (in the Crimea). I will not talk about that because I do not want to anger you."

A Tatar: "It is not true, we were slandered."

A Tatar said that he had been threatened, and several people spoke at the same time.

Mr Gromyko: "Comrades, calm down, show more restraint and reason.... I see that our views on the past do not coincide, and we could continue indefinitely. But what we have said has been drawn up into a document. Some of you may think that there are some inaccuracies or distortions. No. Do not think that. There are facts which cannot be forgotten, in the Crimea and throughout the country.

"I know that you and I would have preferred those events not to have taken place. But what can we do?

"Let us think back.... Around 200 divisions were attacking the Soviet Union. We did not have much time for academic work. We had to fight, and save our country as a whole and each individual republic.

"I would like to say that we have not included in our reports a single fact about which we are not certain. It may not be pleasant, it is not pleasant for us either. We do not know what would have been left of the Crimea if the enemy had won.

"Let us look to the future together, striving to find a solution which corresponds to the principles of justice.... That is why a state commission has been formed. It comprises Comrades Gromyko, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and member of the Politburo, Vorotnikov, member of the Politburo, Shcherbitskiy, first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party and member of the Politburo, Yakovlev, member of the Politburo, Demichev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, Lukyanov, candidate member of the Politburo, Razumovskiy, secretary of the Central Committee, and Usmankhodzhayev, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party, with whom you are well acquainted....

"Forget the idea that this matter can be resolved at a stroke.... Do not think that we simply want to persuade you to pack your bags and go home. Think. We understand that you are rather overwrought. We understand. You have come here, you have left your families, some of you may unwittingly have promised to bring back a solution. But let us take a more moderate attitude."

Gromyko Receives Visitors to Supreme Soviet

LD282115 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—Andrey Gromyko today received a new group of visitors who approached the Presidium of the USSR Suprme Soviet with various questions.

One hundred and thirty visitors on an average come to the reception room of the Presidium daily. Among the citizens who arrived in Moscow and today stepped into the building standing on the corner of Marx and Kalinin Avenues were residents of various cities and populated localities of the Soviet Union.

Conversations with people show that many of them have been to district, regional, republican and other organisations on more than one occasion already. However, locally officials of those bodies, organisations and institutions in whose direct competence was solution of concrete issues and whom these people approached, did not always consider their requests with due attention.

Such an attitude cannot be justified by anything, especially now, in conditions of the restructuring, greater democracy and openness. All this proves for one more time that work on receiving people at the local level requires that all executives, especially officials representing the soviets, government bodies, continually enhance attention to the needs of the people.

It follows from the talks with citizens that deputies and soviets of people's deputies at all levels, and other senior executives of economic, public and other organisations in all cities and areas of the country should streamline work to receive citizens. Each request should be heard out attentively and assistance should be given in all necessary cases.

Vorotnikov Chairs RSFSR Government Meeting

PM241047 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 3

[Unnamed IZVESTIYA special correspondent report: "In the RSFSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] The RSFSR Council of Ministers Presidium has heard a report from the Bashkir ASSR Council of Ministers on the work of soviet and economic organs in

introducing the economic management mechanism in the agro-industrial complex and also a report from the Tyumen Oblispolkom on the progress of livestock overwintering.

The progress of the construction of young people's residential complexes in the RSFSR was discussed. Other questions were also examined.

The session was chaired by V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Vorotnikov Speaks at RSFSR Awards Ceremony

LD282329 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The presentation of RSFSR state prizes for 1987 in the field of literature, the arts, and architecture took place in Moscow today. Representatives of party, local soviet, and public organizations, and those engaged in culture gathered at a solemn ceremony in the RSFSR House of Soviets. Comrade Vorotnikov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, spoke at the awards presentation. On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers, he cordially congratulated the new prize-winners whose creative contribution to the development of Soviet culture had received high appraisal and just recognition. The country's creative intelligentsia, Comrade Vorotnikov emphasized, not only actively supports restructuring, but also makes an ever-growing contribution to the process of the revolutionary renewal of society. It is precisely in this context that the latest achievements of Russian literature and the arts which have received RSFSR state prizes are considered.

The prize-winners gave their assurance that they would devote all their energies and talent to the creation of works that meet the spirit of the times and serve the cause of the moral purification of our society.

More on Ligachev, Talyzin Exhibit Visit

PM231641 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Visit to the Exhibition of National Economic Achievements"]

[Text] On 18 December Ye.K. Ligachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Gosplan; and Yu.D. Maslyukov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; visited an exhibition of training aids and science manuals for general schools and vocational and technical colleges organized at the Exhibition of National Economic Achievements in connection with the upcoming CPSU Central Committee Plenum on restructuring secondary and higher schools in the USSR.

They examined the training aids, classroom and laboratory equipment, and visual aids on show—both those currently available and those which have been updated taking into consideration the demands of school reform. Attention has been devoted to comprehensive training aids which facilitate the efficient molding of sound knowledge, skills, and abilities and students' education.

In the course of the discussion the attention of the USSR Ministry of Education and the State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, the Ministry of the Radio Industry, the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, and the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems was drawn to serious shortcomings in organizing the elaboration and production of training aids, which often do not meet the requirements of public education either quantitatively or qualitatively. The low standard of training aids and the poor print of manuals, and educational establishments' poor provisioning with modern furniture and teaching and sporting equipment and stock was pointed out.

The need to equip the educational process with new types of classroom and laboratory equipment at accelerated rates was stressed. It was recommended that the necessary efforts and resources be concentrated on developing and producing training aids and expanding the circle of enterprises manufacturing educational visual aids. In work on projects for new manuals on the basis of open competitions there must be greater glasnost both in the course of their elaboration and in summing up the results.

A.I. Volskiy, V.A. Grigorev, and A.G. Melnikov, chiefs of CPSU Central Committee departments, and journalists from central newspapers took part in looking round and discussing the exhibits.

Zaykov Attends Moscow Development Plan Meeting

PM231343 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Dec 87 p 2

[MOSTASS report: "Comprehensive Development for Moscow and the Moscow Region"]

[Text] A conference of leaders of party, soviet, and economic organs from the capital and Moscow Oblast, attended by officials from the USSR Gosplan, the USSR Gosstroy, the State Committee for Architecture, and public organizations, was held in Moscow 10 December to discuss tasks concerning the elaboration of the general plan for the development of the capital's region as a single national economic complex through the year 2010.

This document is being elaborated in conformity with the concept for Moscow's comprehensive socioeconomic development approved by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. The purpose of the general plan is to fully consider the problems of the capital's and the oblast's life and to prove equal to the tasks of their organic unity. Particular attention was devoted to fundamentally improving working, daily living, and leisure conditions and transport and medical services for the millions of residents of Moscow and the Moscow region.

The task was set to thoroughly work out questions concerning the sharp improvement of ecological conditions and decommissioning of enterprises damaging the environment. A particular position at the conference was occupied by problems directly linked with the restoration and reconstruction of the capital's historic center and the preservation of monuments of national history, architecture, and culture so that Moscow's unique character can be preserved forever.

At the same time, attention was drawn to the need for comprehensive development of the city, including its new rayons, and of towns in the Moscow region.

The conference was addressed by L.N. Zaykov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

Taking part in the conference's work were A.G. Melnikov, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Construction Department; V.K. Mesyats, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Obkom; O.I. Lobov deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; V.M. Serov, deputy chairman of the USSR Gosplan; L.A. Bibin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Gosstroy; senior officials from Moscow City and Oblast party and soviet organs; and leaders of a number of ministries and departments.

Zaykov Addresses Conference

PM231139 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Dec 87 p 2

[Report by T. Akkuratova, TASS Correspondent Yu. Buryak, and O. Lysenskiy: "Moscow City and Oblast: On the Threshold of the 3d Millennium: Tasks Facing Architects and Construction Workers"]

[Text] What will Moscow be like when it greets the 850th anniversary of its foundation and as it enters the 3d millennium—the answer to these questions will be given by the General Plan for the development of the capital city and Moscow Oblast for the period through 2010. It is being formed in accordance with the Prospectus for the Comprehensive Socioeconomic Development of Moscow, which has been approved by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. A large collective of authors is now completing work on the first stage of the General Plan—the natural and environmental, territorial, and demographic resources of the city and the Moscow region have been studied in detail. Work has begun to draw up detailed plans of the center of the capital and of new areas of mass construction at the same time. The preliminary results of the work so far and the problems of further implementing the comprehensive program for the socioeconomic and architectural development of the capital region and improving capital construction and the management of that sector were discussed at a conference held in the capital.

In one hall there were architects and construction workers from Moscow city and its region, party and soviet workers from the Moscow party gorkom and obkom and the Moscow Gorispolkom and Oblispolkom, construction workers from the capital and its oblast, and workers of central planning organs. The discussion was about the common interests of the 15 million Soviet people living in Moscow and its oblast.

Opening the conference, L.N. Zaykov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Moscow party gorkom, stressed that one of the main features of the new General Plan is the coordinated development of the capital and oblast as an integrated national economic complex. Another task is to solve the problems of industry and construction, transport and manpower, and demographic policy and the environment.

Architects and construction workers have done certain work to carry out the existing General Plan for Moscow's development and reconstruction. During its implementation, however, serious shortcomings and imbalances have appeared in the city's development: the unbalanced growth of the urban development base and the inefficient use of manpower, materials, and fuel and energy resources. Land in the city is not always used sensibly and construction quality is poor.

Extensive development trends have long predominated in the capital's industry. The capacities of existing enterprises have increased and new production units and scientific research organizations have been created. Decisions to remove nonspecialized enterprises from Moscow or to close them altogether have not been carried out. The result of all this has been that the size of the city's population, which was used as the basis for the previous general plan, is almost 1 million above the estimate. Consequently, despite considerable quantities of housing, cultural, and consumer service construction the necessary social effect has not been achieved. Approximately 2 million people in Moscow are now in need of improved housing conditions. The provision of cultural and consumer services for the population is below the plan figure and averaged 50-70% against the norm. The implementation of the transportation program is unsatisfactory. In view of the city's present-day development the subway network does not meet requirements. Three of the five radial subway lines [diametr] are

considerably overloaded. The construction of infrastructure facilities and the provision of utilities are lagging behind the pace of the city's development.

The design of new residential areas is bland and monotonous. Questions connected with ensuring the comprehensive nature of new construction and the preservation of the historical and architectural environment must be resolved.

Outdated planning and management methods have been used to solve the most important problems of the city's development. A large number of old resolutions, programs, schemes, and arbitrary decisions have been used which have been poorly coordinated.

All these shortcomings, contradictions, and imbalances must be eliminated when compiling the new General Plan. And it was on these that the conference participants focused their main attention. [passage omitted]

Zaykov Addresses Zelenogradskiy Raykom Plenum
PM241115 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report under the rubric "Party Committee Plenums": "Up to the New Tasks"]

[Text] The party committee plenums and Communists' meetings currently in progress throughout the country serve to closely monitor the activity of party organizations since the 27th CPSU Congress and are an important stage in the preparations for the 19th All-Union Party Conference. Discussing reports by elected bodies and party committee secretaries, Communists are examining the main issue—party leadership of restructuring—in a frank but comradely atmosphere characterized by broad glasnost.

The course adopted by the party at the April (1985) CPSU Central Committee plenum primarily intends real improvements and tangible, positive results in the economic, social, and spiritual spheres. It is on the basis of these criteria that Communists approached the assessment of their work at a Zelenogradskiy CPSU Raykom plenum held 19 December.

The main idea running through the report by V.A. Savelyev, first secretary of the raykom, and the speeches was that Communists and all working people in Zelenograd are trying to work harder and act with greater drive and energy in every respect. Far from all reserves have been brought into play, however.

The plenum was addressed by L.N. Zaykov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

Emphasizing that the party, the country, and the whole of Soviet society have reached a new, even more complex and crucial stage in restructuring, he dwelt in detail on fundamental questions of party leadership of restructuring.

Life in Zelenograd and party organizations' activity are geared to resolving a most important national economic task: accelerating the development of the scientific and industrial base of the country's microelectronics industry. The CPSU Central Committee and the Politburo attach exceptionally great importance to the preferential development of the Soviet electronics industry. Zelenograd was visited by M.S. Gorbachev in July this year. A detailed discussion of the problems of developing the sector was held at the scientific center and a series of tasks of fundamental importance were set. The main task is to speed up the computerization of the national economy.

Party committees are also expected to make an increasing contribution to the solution of this task. The CPSU Central Committee attaches great political significance to their reports because of the need to increase the pace of restructuring in all units and at all levels and ensure that certain party committees no longer lag behind this dynamic social development.

Restructuring, he noted in his speech, is primarily creation. That is why it is important now as never before to gather literally every grain of progressive experience and make it collective property.

There was a detailed discussion of the progress made in preparations to work under the conditions of radical economic reform and the Law on the State Enterprise (Association). Today the party makes the question quite clear: Success will be achieved as long as the masses are galvanized into action and play a real part in the management of society and the solution of all questions, even state questions.

Everything now taking place in the country is inseparable from the foreign policy line adopted by the party and the Soviet state. This line is extremely clear: the establishment of lasting peace free of the threat of nuclear catastrophe. An important practical step has been taken in this direction: The Soviet-American treaty to eliminate an entire class of nuclear arms has been signed.

The visit by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to the United States has clearly demonstrated the attention with which the whole world is following our restructuring. The 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution gave a new boost to our progress. Restructuring is the continuation of the October cause and requires revolutionary action from Communists.

On the previous day L.N. Zaykov visited enterprises in Zelenograd and familiarized himself with the organization of trade, consumer services, and public leisure facilities. There was a frank, exacting discussion of how to increase every Communist's contribution to restructuring and enhance cadres' sense of responsibility for the tasks with which they are entrusted. He stressed the importance of creating an exacting but creative atmosphere which would be conducive to enhancing initiative in labor collectives.

Shcherbitskiy at Kiev Anniversary Meeting

LD290005 Kiev in English to North America 0030 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Today a gala meeting took place in Kiev to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Soviet power in the Ukraine. Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Vladimir Shcherbitskiy, delivered a report at the meeting. Here we present the highlights of his report:

The working people of Soviet Ukraine always remember that the two history-making dates, the victory of the October Revolution in Petrograd and the First All-Ukrainian Congress of Soviets, are closely related. Only a month and a half after the victory of the October Revolution, Soviet power was proclaimed in the Ukraine, said Vladimir Shcherbitskiy. Life vividly proved the correctness of the historic choice made by the working people of the Ukraine. Thanks to the Great October Socialist Revolution, thanks to the Leninist party, the people of the Ukraine gained their socialist statehood, achieved genuine national revival.

Vladimir Shcherbitskiy analyzed in detail the revolutionary situation that emerged in the Ukraine in 1917. In particular, he characterized the counterrevolutionary essence of the activities carried out by the bourgeois nationalist Tsentralna Rada [central council] which the people of the Ukraine refused to follow as soon as they managed to see its true face unmasked.

December the 25th, 1917, the day of the First All-Ukrainian Congress of Soviets, went down in our history as the day the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was born. The congress solved the issue of the self-determination of the Ukrainian people and the establishment of a close state union between the Ukraine and Soviet Russia. At all stages in the construction of a new society the vital force of the Leninist friendship of nations helped the people of the republic solve the most complicated tasks.

Vladimir Shcherbitskiy recalled the main stages of socialist construction in the Ukraine: The setting-up of modern industry in the republic, collectivization in rural areas, and the cultural revolution. He also recalled the great difficulties that the people had to overcome and also the grave mistakes and distortions of the times of the personality cult. Unfavorable weather conditions at the beginning of the thirties were an especially hard experience for the budding socialist economy.

The situation was aggravated by an unprecedented drought. All this led to serious problems with the food supply at the end of 1932, beginning of 1933, and even led to famine in some rural areas. In the West much was written with bias about those hard times. Political speculations to this effect continue even today, but the truth lies in the fact that the Soviet Government did everything possible under those conditions so as to help the population of the regions of the Ukraine, the Don River and Kuban areas, the Volga river basin, the Southern Urals and Kazakhstan, which were struck with this calamity.

And yet, stressed the speaker, despite all hardships, the working people of the Ukraine, assisted by other Soviet peoples, achieved impressive results in all spheres of life. Their long-cherished dream to set up a Ukrainian state came true.

Reunification of western Ukraine, the northern part of Bukovina, Katyn, Akkerman and Izmail, districts in Bessarabia, with Soviet Ukraine, was an event of great historic importance. Thus all Ukrainian lands were united within a single union state. The process of consolidating the Ukrainian socialist nation was completed.

The war against Hitler's fascism became a harsh trial for Soviet power, continued Vladimir Shcherbitskiy. Victory in that war was possible only thanks to the unity and friendship of all nations of the Soviet Union.

Further on, Vladimir Shcherbitskiy focused in detail on the main stages of the postwar development of the republic, its undisputable achievements in the economic, social and cultural life. He gave a principled assessment of the manifestations of voluntarism and subjectivism in the sixties, the stagnation processes at the end of the seventies, beginning of the eighties.

Telling the truth to the people, the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party headed the process of the revolutionary rejuvenation in all spheres of social life. Complicated tasks of restructuring and speeding up are currently being solved on the basis of a strong foundation laid down during the 70-year-long history of our country. We declare that everything that has been achieved in the Ukraine has been the result of joint efforts, the product of wisdom and talent of the people of the republic, of all nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union.

Preliminary results of the work done over the last 2 years in the current 5-year economic plan period have been summed up. Here are some facts and figures. The basic national economy tasks have been fulfilled. A number of

important plan indices, both quantitative and qualitative, have been overfulfilled. The national income growth rate has increased 1.2 times as compared with the average yearly increase in the previous 5-year economic plan period. It must be stressed that due to the consistent implementation of the party's policy aimed at primarily developing the social sphere questions connected with the satisfaction of the material and cultural needs of man are being solved now in a better way. The housing construction plans are being steadily fulfilled. Within a period of 2 years 40 million square meters of housing have been built in the republic, 4.2 million of them over and above the plan. More schools, preschool establishments, hospitals, outpatient clinics and polyclinics, were constructed than was envisaged. There also was progress in providing the population with goods, especially of durable usage, and with services.

At the same time Vladimir Shcherbitskiy made an analysis of unsolved issues. In part he said: Not everything was produced as had been planned in the machine-building industry, ferrous metallurgy, capital construction. The plans for certain types of agricultural produce have not been fulfilled. Problems pertaining to the quality of goods are being solved slowly. We also have a lot of serious drawbacks in trade and everyday services for the population.

Speaking about the vital issues of today, Vladimir Shcherbitskiy said: At the current second stage of the restructuring process the success of the cause will depend first of all on how the party organizations and work collectives will deepen democracy in our everyday life. The deepening of democracy envisages the more complete usage of rights and opportunities of the soviets of people's deputies, trade unions, the Young Communist League, and of all public organizations. In implementing the restructuring, in the development of democracy and openness, we pay special significance to the mass media, to the press, television and radio. It is significant for them, without lowering the level of criticism, to better cover the restructuring process.

Then Vladimir Shcherbitskiy dwelled on some aspects of international life: During the recent visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to the United States a Treaty on the Elimination of Soviet and American Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles was signed. As is known, the next step should become a solution of the issues on a significant reduction of strategic offensive weapons and prevention of space militarization. The reached agreements and the perspective of radical changes in the international situation testify to the fact that the concept of new political thinking worked out by our party is gaining broad response in wide circles of the politicians and the world public.

The speaker dwelled in detail on the active participation of the Ukraine in the international life, in its activities for peace.

In conclusion of his report Vladimir Shcherbitskiy said: We have traversed a long road, one full of heroism, intensive work, and great achievements. But the main thing is that for the past 70 years our people have preserved their revolutionary optimism, loyalty to Lenin's ideals, and have stockpiled a rich historic experience and created a reliable basis for moving forward.

Those were the highlights of the report by the member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, Vladimir Shcherbitskiy, at the ceremonial meeting in Kiev dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of soviet power in the Ukraine.

Tajik Central Committee Changes Announced

LD281021 Dushanbe Domestic Service in Russian 1515 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] On 22 December at the eighth plenum of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee discussion continued of the review report of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee Bureau on the work and leadership of restructuring in the republic. A concluding speech was made by Makhkamov, first secretary of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee. The plenum adopted decisions relating to the matter discussed.

For the purpose of activating the work of members and candidate-members of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee, the plenum confirmed a working group on the various directions of the sociopolitical, economic, and, social spheres of the republic. The plenum examined organizational matters.

The plenum withdrew from membership of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee Communists Abdukadyrov, Dadabayev, Niyezmatov, Tabarov and Usmanov from candidate-membership of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee for not justifying the confidence accorded in them by Communists.

The plenum transferred Achilov, Goncharova, and Kuznetsov from candidate-members to Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee members.

Dadabayev, who had previously been chairman of the Tajik Trade Unions Council, was elected secretary of the Tajikistan Central Committee Communist Party.

The plenum released Tabarov from his duties as chief of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee Culture Department in connection with his transfer to other work. Yuldashev, previously chairman of the Presidium of the Tajik Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, was confirmed as chief of the Central Committee Culture Department.

In connection with his transfer to other work, the plenum released Lomakin from his duties as chief of the Water Resources and Rural Construction Department of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee. (?Abduzhaburov) was confirmed as chief of the Water Resources and Rural Construction Department. He was previously chairman of the Garmskiy Rayon Soviet Ispolkom.

Kozlova was released from duties as chief of the Light Industry and Consumer Goods Department of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee, in connection with her retirement on a pension. (?Abdurakhmanova), who was previously director-general of the 50-Letiya SSSR clothing production association in Dushanbe, was confirmed as chief of the Light Industry and Consumer Goods Department of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee.

After htis, the plenum of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee ended its work.

Azerbaijan First Secretary Attends Plenum

LD282124 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] A very important problem was discussed at a plenum of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan Central Committee in Baku today: Raising the quality of tea. The report by Comrade Bagirov, first secretary of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan Central Committee, and speeches by those taking part in the plenum pointed to the need for strict specialization in the industry and to improve work on breeding to introduce new types of tea. The decision was made to increase 1.5 -fold the production of tea and significantly improve its quality, by laying and relaying old tea plantations.

Solovyev Addresses Vyborg Gorkom Plenum

LD271208 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Today, the Leningrad Gorkom and Raykom discussed restructuring. Communists of Vyborg critically examined the activities of the gorkom buro apparatus. So far it has not been possible to make a breakthrough in many sectors of the economic and social development of the city. Stagnation is being overcome with difficulty at the Svyatogorsk paper and pulp mill, at the Elektroinstrument works, and at other major enterprises. In many respects this has resulted from the fact that the commitment of gorkom staff and members of the buro to resolve the key problems of developing economic methods of management, intensifying production, techaical upgrading of enterprises and increasing the quality of products has weakened.

Shortcomings in agriculture and other branches of the economy were fundamentally analyzed. Serious errors in housing construction, in the public health service, in the organization of trade, paid services, and the development of the material base of culture have been identified. Communists have mapped out measures for a resolute renewal of the forms and methods of party leadership, and for enhancing the influence of electable bodies in all walks of city and rayon life.

Comrade Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad gorkom, spoke at the Vyborg gorkom plenum.

Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Meets 16 Dec

NC280832 Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek 0215 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The seventh session of the 11th convocation of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet was held in Tashkent on 16 December. The first meeting began at 1000 local time. Members and candidate members of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee Bureau Usmankhodzhayev, Alimov, Antonov, Dogonkin, Kadyrov, Lapkov, Nishanov, Agarov, Salykov, Kholmukhamedov, Alimova, Dzhurabekov, Sakin, and Khaydurov, as well as the members of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the government, participated in the meeting. The session was opened by Khabibullayev, [title indistinct].

The agenda and work schedule of the meeting were unanimously approved. Included on the agenda were matters related to the tasks of the republic's soviets of people's deputies, ministries, and administrations in connection with the realization of the complex housing program, which has been drawn up to cover the period until the year 2000, and to the approval of the decrees issued by the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Later, the deputies began their deliberations on the agenda.

Kadyrov, chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers Presidium, read a report on the tasks of the republic's soviets of people's deputies, ministries, and administrations in connection with the realization of the complex housing program until the year 2000. After debating the report, the Supreme Soviet adopted a unanimous decision on these tasks. The deputies then heard a report by Deputy (?Dehkulbekova), secretary of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the approval of the decrees of the presidium, and they adopted various decisions and laws.

With this, the seventh session of the 11th convocation of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet concluded its work.

Burlatskiy on Human Rights Commission Activities

LD261931 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1215 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, 26 December (TASS)—The main direction in the activity of the public commission on human rights that was recently set up in the Soviet Union will

become a new approach to the issues of international cooperation, says its chairman, Fedor Burlatskiy, well-known Soviet scientist and publicist.

In an interview with a TASS correspondent, he noted that for a long time after the USSR adopted the Final Act in Helsinki, humanatarian problems and human rights were not a ground for cooperation here, but on the contrary served rather as a subject of discord.

"Through our activity we would, of course, like to promote a different approach," stressed Fedor Burlatskiy, "An approach in the spirit of new thinking. This means it is necessary to get this important problem—I have in mind the East and the West—on its feet through joint efforts, to do things in such a way that we would not brandish the swords of mutual accusation with each other, but try to understand each other in an intelligent and composed manner."

A commission on international humanitarian cooperation and human rights has been set up at the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, Fedor Burlatskiy said. It includes writers, scientists, publicists, and figures in trade union and youth organizations.

The commission was formed with just one condition—it is not a bureaucratic institution, it promises no benefits or even minimum wages, therefore it has attracted genine enthusiasts, noted Burlatskiy, people who are close to and cherish the ideas enshrined in Helsinki and their implementation. Now the commission has a little over 30 people. "Our doors are open to any organizations grounded in the USSR Constitution and Soviet laws and that have also received official status."

"In the near future," said Burlatskiy, "a committee is due to be set up in the USSR for humanitarian cooperation and human rights. It will have at its disposal both an office staff and a building, which will allow it to examine specific letters and complaints."

"Our next plans," said Burlatskiy, "include holding "roundtables" with government and law enforcement bodies. The work program also includes educational activity, discussions, and dialogues at various types of forums inside our country in which any interested party may take part."

Turkmenia Official Killed Over Perestroyka

LD281648 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT28 Dec 87

[Text] The public in Turkmenia, Central Asia, has expressed profound concern over a crime committed in the city of Chardzhou, where an executive party official, Khalima Dzhorayevna, was shot dead. Khalima Dzhorayevna firmly pursued the course toward perestroyka and democratization. A special group of enquiry is conducting an investigation. The press rpeorts that even now it's clear that the crime was perpetrated in the situation caused by resistance of a number of officials in the city to greater openness and democracy. Dzhorayevna had enemies among those who'd prospered in the years of stagnation.

OGONEK Journalist Dropped From Board

AU290823 Paris AFP in English 0740 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, Dec 29 (AFP)—A Soviet journalist accused of fabricating a poll, according to which only 30 per cent of respondents approved of the restructuring drive known as perestroyka, has been dropped from the editorial board of his magazine OGONEK, a spokesman for the weekly told AFP Tuesday.

But the spokesman said that the journalist, Vladimir Biryukov, retained his position as head of the paper's international section. Mr Biryukov had earlier this month been reprimanded by the Communist party cell of the magazine, which is a leading proponent of perestroyka in the media, for "inventing" the poll he said had been carried out by specialists from the Novosibirsk Economics Institute in Siberia.

According to the journalist's article, 30 per cent of local residents approved of perestroyka, 50 per cent were indifferent, and 20 per cent opposed.

Restructuring Brings Earnings Cuts, Complaints

PM240931 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Dec 87 p 1

[M. Polyatykin "Sympathetic Viewpoint": "Shortage of Economic Consciousness"]

[Text] My wife came home from work on pay day. She put four red [R10] bills on the table for all of us to see, and told our daughter:

"You'll have to wait for your boots, Nastya. They've introduced economic accountability [khozraschet], and we're down to straight basic pay...."

And so, restructuring, self-financing, and self-capitalization have now affected my family. Not by boosting the family budget but in the form of really tangible losses. The same way, incidentally, as they have affected many other families.

My neighbor, a machine operator, complained: They're not paying the wages; the organization in which he works has no money in its account. People in one of the Mostorg [Moscow Oblast Trust for Wholesale and Retail Trade] stores refused to man the counters: Extra floor space was added in a new supermarket which resulted in increased distribution costs and a sharp drop in wages.

At the same time a team of electricians at the Moscow City Soviet Main Administration for Industrial Construction has been earning R800 a month each. No one believed that they would be paid so much, but they earned it and so they were paid. Another team in the same administration was not paid even the basic wage—they had not earned it. Everyone thought: Just like before they will pay at least the average. They didn't. The electricians were so resentful that they nearly refused their wages.

It is easy to welcome and applaud restructuring when it gives you something. But when it takes something away? How can you rise above personal interest? How can you ignore the unpleasant feeling of frustration: Just yesterday I had it and today I don't? People need not an illusory hope tomorrow but real, material incentives today so that good workers receive more than bad ones everywhere, in every organization. So that wages are not dependent on a poor supply of resources and crude leadership.

As yet the trading sector has little experience of work in conditions of economic accountability. But it is enough to be convinced that much here depends on supply and leadership. Central Department Store sales personnel, for example, cannot earn if they do not fulfill the plan for sales turnover. And this will not happen unless light industry enterprises fulfill trade orders and supplementary targets. But they are not fulfilling them yet. So no amount of shock work without days off will save the sales turnover plan if the main thing is not in the stores—the goods.

Economic restructuring is finding it totally impossible to get established in public catering and the food trade although there are goods here. Economic accountability cannot succeed in Gagarinskiy Rayon's "Prodtovary" RTO [Rayon Trade Association] when distribution costs in the association are above the average for the city and the level of profitability is among the lowest. But economists and traders pretend that nothing is happening, and at a visiting session of the Mostorg Collegium association director I.V. Avrutin went as far as to report almost total prosperity. The only thing is, he said, that store workers' wages have fallen for some reason and cadre turnover has suddenly exceeded 8%. But everything is fine....

So fine that on a day when rayon stores were checked, 9 of them had no sugar, 12 had no vegetable oil, and 2 even had no salt. Who should be ensuring supplies and leadership if not the director and his administrative apparatus? Or do the director and the apparatus not need this because their salaries have certainly not been cut?

It is as if it does not occur to some trade officials, not to mention their colleagues in consumer services, that the client and the consumer provide the main assessment of everything they do. And in the final analysis the whole spectrum of the collective's economic indicators depend on it. The popularity of a store, or, for example, a workshop sharply increases turnover and assists in achieving a smooth work flow and high returns. How can this be achieved? Above all by directly linking the client's interests to the assessment of your own labor.

The former leadership methods are not relevant today—this is clear to everyone. But, unfortunately, not everyone is striving to master economics and the new thinking and to determine his place in the process taking place. What are they waiting for? Could they be waiting until labor collectives start having their output rejected?

Official Discusses Amnesty Decree

LD251723 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Excerpts] As you know, comrades, on 18 June the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, guided by the principles of humanism, issued an amnesty decree in connection with the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Now the term of this decree has expired. Our correspondent, Anatoliy Fedorov, met with Ivan Nikiforovich Katargin, chief of the administrative and corrective labor law department of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, lieutenant general of internal services.

[Begin recording] [Katargin] As distinct from the majority of amnesties in past years, the 18 June decree envisaged, along with release, a reduction in the unserved part of the sentences of a broad range of convicts. The main condition of the reduction in penalty according to the amnesty was model behavior on the part of the convicted person and his conscientious attitude to work. Here lies the main feature of the amnesty that has ended.

At the same time, amnesty in the form of release from penalty has not been applied to persons convicted for particularly dangerous crimes. Also not subject to release were persons who were sentenced to deprivation of freedom on more than two occasions, or who had already been released on the basis of an amnesty or pardon. The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs has requested that the bodies inflicting punishment display maximum attention to the fate of each convicted person to exclude instances of unjustified rejection of an amnesty.

A critical assessment was made of the existing individual formal and unobjective factors determining the fates of convicts. Some convicted persons have been released on the condition of their compulsory application for work at national economic enterprises and building sites. Moreover, according to preliminary data, cases have been closed by investigatory bodies and the courts against 30,000 citizens on the basis of the amnesty decree.

[Fedorov] And the minors, a very difficult category of children, has everything been done by the militia here toward their adaptation?

[Katargin] To prevent recurrences of behavior on the part of those amnestied, the home affairs bodies have implemented measures for the organized transfer of teenagers, released under the amnesty, to their parents or persons substituting for them. They have also made arrangements, with the assistance of the Commission for the Affairs of Minors, for their education and work, and for work and everyday-service arrangements for other categories of convicted persons, and the organization of control over their behavior.

Unfortunately, not all those released under the amnesty are justifying the trust put in them. Some of them have again committed crimes. [passage omitted]

[Fedorov] Ivan Nikiforovich, masses of letters keep coming in to us and to the editors of newspapers, magazines, radio, and television, and evidently to you in the Home Affairs Ministry. They all ask the same question: Has the amnesty had an effect on the overall operational situation in the country? Could you clear this up, please?

[Katorgin] I will tell you plainly. The amnesty has not affected the state of public order in the country. The vast majority of those released under the amnesty have successfully adapted to labor collectives. I would like to take this opportunity to ask the leaders of enterprises and organizations to which amnestied persons are sent to show the maximum exactingness and attention toward them. This will enable the process of their social adaptation to be successfully completed. [end recording]

Militia Scholars Discuss Crime Prevention Work

PM241023 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by V. Korneyev: "What the Militia Should Be Thinking About"]

[Text] A scientific and practical conference, organized by the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs in conjunction with the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry All-Union Scientific Research Institute and the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry Academy, was devoted to ways of improving crime prevention measures.

The conference organizers' purpose was to discuss, in a creative atmosphere of debate, problems of intensifying the role of crime prevention in conditions of restructuring.

"The discussion," Doctor of Juridical Sciences Professor K. Igoshev, deputy chief of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry Academy, said, "was prompted by the fact that restructuring has demanded the elaboration of a new concept for the fight against crime. The main role is to be played by internal affairs bodies' preventive work, carried out in line with the democratization processes taking place in our society. The scale of the task can be judged by the following figures: Over 400,000 comrades' courts are currently operating in the country along with more than 170,000 crime prevention councils at enterprises, over 40,000 public law and order protection centers, and approximately 300,000 voluntary people's militia squads. Unfortunately, not all these social forces are being fully exploited."

"The conference noted the need to instill new social and legal thinking in every member of the militia," Doctor of Juridical Sciences Professor V. Rezvykh, chief of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry All-Union Scientific Research Institute, said. "What this essentially means is that the custodian of law and order must always be conscious of preventive aims and be thoroughly aware that his work will only be highly effective when it is combined with working people's assistance. And that is irrespective of whether we are talking about identifying individuals leading an immoral life, the investigation of crimes, or the maintenance of public order.... In all such situations it is, of course, necessary to proceed on the basis of the demands of socialist legality."

It was from this standpoint that the conference criticized instances of arbitrary interpretation of laws and far-fetched bans, connected, for example, with restrictions on individual labor activity and interference in the work of cooperatives....

Uzbek Procuracy Urged To Combat Illegality

LD251349 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] In the USSR Procuracy. The Collegium of the USSR Procuracy has heard a report from the procurator of the Uzbek SSR on the work done to strengthen socialist legality and law and order. It was noted that the procuracy bodies, in overcoming parochialism and, on occasion, the outright resistance of individual officials, have done a great deal of work to restore conditions of legality, especially in the economic sphere, in the struggle against corruption, in affirmation of the principle of social justice, in the eradication of pilfering and bribe-taking, abuses, and mismanagement. More than R100 million taken from misappropriators and bribe-takers have been returned to the state.

This work has been carried out with the support of party bodies and active cooperation with other law enforcement bodies, labor collectives and employees of the procuracies of the USSR and union republics who were despatched to provide assistance. A special staff set up by the USSR Procuracy has played a great part in the struggle against serious crimes. However, it has turned out that the measures taken are insufficient. The state of affairs with legality and law and order is changing for the better too slowly. Negative phenomena in the republic have put down too deep roots in the republic, and great efforts will still be necessary to eliminate them.

The Collegium of the USSR Procuracy demanded that the procurator of the Uzbek SSR continue the principled policy of the struggle against crime and violations of legality, keep investigation of crime and the examination of cases in court under remitting supervision, and react sharply and in a principled manner to any violations of legality, by whomsoever they are committed. Measures were taken to provide additional aid to the bodies of the Procuracy of Uzbekistan.

Interest in Western Broadcasts Declines

LD231517 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—The number of Soviet people regularly listening to the programs of the Western radio stations has halved in the outgoing year as compared with the year 1983. The sociologists ascribe this fact to the process of radical restructuring, ensuring more democracy in the Soviet society and growth of information for the population in the USSR about the events in the country and abroad. The comparative analysis was made on the basis of a representative poll carried out by the Academy of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee in the West of the Ukraine and the findings of the similar poll of 1983.

While four years ago nearly 20 percent of the pollees regularly listened to the programs of the Voice of America and German wave, their number has declined to ten percent now. One of the sponsors of the studies Vladimir Shchegortsov, Master of Sciences (Law), told a TASS correspondent that at present the Soviet people show a considerably greater interest in Soviet press publication, radio and television programs which openly, without colouring the real state of affairs, cover the problems confronting the society in the course of restructuring."

In 1983, Shchegortsov said, 30.9 percent of those who listened to the Western radio programs turned to us because of the incomplete information in the Soviet sources, 15.4 percent —wished to get additional information, two percent—from sheer curiosity. The rest did not answer the question or named other causes. Today the above-listed motives were named respectively by 7.7 and 22 per cent of listeners, 19.2 per cent were in a difficulty to answer.

Also indicative is the answer to the question by what problems do the Western sources attract you.

In 1983 a source of considerable interest were programs on political and social subjects. Today the picture has changed. The source of the greatest interest is information about sports (17.4 per cent), modern music and fashion—15 per cent each.

Official Phones To Be Used for Private Citizens

PM231257 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 3

[Own correspondent report under rubric "In the Republics' Governments": "At the Expense of Official Telephones"]

[Text] Kazakh SSR—The Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers has authorized the republic's Ministry of Communications to reduce the number of official telephones in various institutions and use the lines thereby freed for new intercity and city telephone booths and also for providing private apartments with telephone lines.

Kazakhstan is ninth among the union republics in terms of the level of provision of telephones for private apartments. On 1 October 1987 a total of 3,123 applications from invalids and 20,747 applications from Great Patriotic War veterans were still outstanding. Approximately 600,000 applications for the installation of private telephones had been made in all, and the number is constantly growing.

It is a serious problem. But the reserves exist: Management personnel and the ministerial and departmental apparatus are being cut back in the republic, as throughout the rest of the country. For example, the Kazakh SSR Ministry of Geology in Alma-ata was recently abolished and the republic's Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy is going to follow the same path. However, communications workers are in no hurry at present to transfer the telephones in these now empty offices to private apartments.

This issue was discussed at a session of the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers Presidium examining the Kazakh SSR Ministry of Communications' work to expand public services.

The situation is bad in the republic with regard to intercity telephone communications and there are not enough public telephone booths. The construction of new automatic telephone exchanges is of great importance for solving all these problems. Work is behind schedule at the construction projects, however. The republic's Council of Ministers instructed the leaders of construction and installation organizations to take every measure necessary to rectify the situation.

"The authorization given us by the Council of Ministers," A. Tungushbayev, Kazakhstan's first deputy communications minister, said, "makes it possible to transfer a large number of telephone lines freed in organizations to residential areas, beginning next year. It goes without saying that we will give priority to applications from invalids and participants in the Great Patriotic War."

The Communications Ministry's plans include a substantial increase in the range of services available to the population. New services are now making their appearance alongside the traditional ones. For example, people living in Chimkent can now be sent bouquets of flowers for their birthday or any other celebration by relatives or friends living in any city in the country. The "Dary Yuga" Cooperative is helping communications workers in this. You can order a parcel of fruit or vegetables from this same cooperative. Raisins or other dried fruit in winter, for example. Or fresh fruit in summer.

Catholic Activist Receives Permission To Leave

AU241229 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, Dec 24 (AFP)—A Catholic activist, Vladimir Albrecht, 54, who was released from a labor camp early this year, told AFP here Thursday that he had been given permission to emigrate.

Mr. Albrecht, a mathematics professor until his arrest in April 1983, said he may travel with his wife and two sons to the United States, from where he may go to a third country to teach.

He added that he did not plan to leave the Soviet Union for the next two months.

In 1983, he was sentenced to three years in a labor camp in Kazakhstan, central Asia, for "anti-Soviet agitation." In late 1985, he was again sanctioned for allegedly having hit the camp's deputy chief.

Last July, Mr. Albrecht complained that he had been unable to find work since his release.

He wrote an underground pamphlet entitled "How To Be a Witness", published in West Germany in 1978. The document gave advice to dissidents on how to respond to Soviet legal authorities.

Catholic Christmas Celebrations Around Country

LD251737 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0948 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Moscow, 25 Dec (TASS)—Correspondents from various regions of the country report on the celebrations of Christmas by believers of the Catholic faith:

Parishioners of the Moscow church of St Lyudovik have taken care over the festive decoration of their church, adorning it with green branches and bright garlands. Young people—students at Moscow institutes who have come to the USSR to receive a higher education—came to the service together with Muscovite parishioners. Also present at the service were diplomats and members of their families who regularly attend the church of St Lyudovik.

The senior priest at the church, Father Stanislav Mazheyka, warmly congratulated those assembled on the festival. [passage omitted]

A TASS correspondent reports from Vilnius on the start of ceremonial services in all the Catholic churches of Lithuania. They were held with large gatherings of people in the Vilnius and Kaunas archbishoprics and the bishoprics of Panevezys, Kaisiadorys, Vilkaviskis and Telsiai.

Archbishop Liudas Povilonis, apostolic administrator of the Kaunas Archbishopric, sent a Christmas message to believers. It was read out at the services before the sermon. The message expresses the desire that peace should be established in people's souls and that they should mark Christmas as a festival of joy and goodwill.

Lithuanian Catholics have met Christmas with faith in a peaceful future. The grounds for optimism were the important international events of the year ending and in particular the treaty on the elimination of an entire class of nuclear missiles signed by the leaders of the USSR and the United States. [passage omitted]

In the Ukrainian town of Lvov, as reported by a TASS correspondent, the largest cathedral in the republic was decorated with fir trees brought in from the Carpathian Mountains. Father Lyudvik Kamilevskiy addressed the parishioners, who had filled the cathedral. He began his sermon with the words: "Praise be to the Most High in the heavens and on earth peace to men."

After the service the religious figure said to the correspondent that the year ending was very significant for him. The priest displayed a photograph on which he is depicted together with Pope John Paul II. It was taken in Poland where the priest was visiting his friends. [passage omitted]

The Christmas festival was celebrated by parishoners of all Roman Catholic churches in Latvia. [passage omitted]

Aeroflot Expansion Plans for 1988 Outlined

LD251515 Moscow TASS in English 1444 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—The main aspect in the development of Aeroflot's international links next year will be a considerable intensification of traffic on the Trans-Siberian route, said Aleksandr Volkov, USSR civil aviation minister. He was addressing today the traditional new year's eve press conference.

Now, the minister explained, this shortest air route from Western Europe to east Asia is used, apart from Aeroflot, also by the Japanese air company JAL, Air France and the Scandinavian SAS. In 1988 they will be joined by

Alitalia, the Dutch KLM and the British Airways as well as the British Coledonian Airways. The number of weekly flights made by foreign airlines—from 10 to 14.

"As was the case in the past years Aeroflot will develop international business ties," Aleksandr Volkov said. "Thus we will make not only joint flights with the Pan American on the New York-Moscow route, but also study the American experience for setting up big kitchens to cater for airpassengers in flight and build hotels for them.

The first steps will be made to draw foreign companies in trade in souvenirs in flight and in the airports, the finishing of the cabins of our planes and their outward painting. Such negotiations are being conducted, in particular, with partners in France and Ireland.

Summing up the results of the outgoing year, the minister said that the Aeroflot has successfully coped with the state plan, by carrying 119 million passengers, including nearly four million passengers on international air routes.

USSR Olympic Decision To Be Announced 15 Jan

LD251808 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1629 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Belgrade, Dec 25 (TANJUG)—First deputy president of the Soviet State Sports Committee Nikolay Rusak said here today that his country's decision on participation in the Seoul 1988 summer Olympic games will be known on January 15 at the latest.

Rusak expressed concern about the complex political situation in South Korea in the wake of the recent presidential elections at which, he said, "Democratic forces did not win." But added that he expects that the Soviet Olympic Committee, at a session in Moscow from January 11 to 15, will decide to send the best sportsmen and sportswomen to Seoul after all.

At a news conference at the end of the visit of the Soviet sports delegation to Yugoslavia, its head announced that 125 Soviet athletes will participate in the upcoming winter Olympic games in Calgary, taking part in almost all events.

Explaining the character of the restructuring drive in Soviet sport, the Soviet functionary said that it pertains above all to a changeover to "self-financing." Instead of continuing to receive funds from the state budget, sporting clubs will in future have to provide their own material resources, whether from sponsors, the sale of tickets, publishing services, or prize games (especially football pools).

In future, too, meritorious Soviet sportsmen will be permitted, under certain conditions, to continue pursuing their careers outside the country, the Soviet functionary announced. So far, such applications have been submitted by two football players and several hockey players who have been invited to play in the Canadian-American professional league NHL. The decision on their departure, the Soviet sports functionary announced, will be taken after the close of the Olympic games, i.e. the world and European championships in the respective sports.

The first deputy president of the sports committee announced the participation of the best Soviet athletes in the "Goodwill Games" in the American town of Seattle in 1990 in all the 22 events. Assessing that this competition contributes to peace and understanding among peoples, Rusak expressed the hope that more countries will participate in the games in Seattle than in those in Moscow last year.

The Soviet functionary expressed satisfaction about Yugoslav-Soviet cooperation in the field of sport, within the framework of which some 60 inter-state meetings in about 20 events have been organised this year.

Soviet Track, Field Chances in'88 Olympics

LD231800 Moscow TASS in English 1737 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Moscow December 23 TASS—TASS correspondent Boris Bukhovtsev writes:

Soviet track-and-field athletes have every ground to count on a win in the unofficial team classification at the summer Olympic games-88. The Soviet team leads the field with 296 points in the sum total of "men's" and "women's" points, collected in the 1987 season in 43 track-and-field events which were on the programme of the second world championship. They are a little ahead on the main rivals of the recent years in the contest for the laurels of the "top track-and-field power"—the GDR (276) and the United States (266).

Counted were the points collected by athletes and relay teams, who entered the group of eight best in the season-1987. In 24 "men's" and 19 "women's" track-and-field games points were awarded from 8 (first place) to 1 (eighth).

But in the separate contest of men's and women's teams the Soviet ones played only the second roles: As tradition of the recent years has it, the USA men's team is ahead, with 192 points, the best women's team is that of the GDR (201). Soviet track-and-field men athletes are the runners up, with 140 points, the GDR athletes—third, with 75 points. In women's games, second are the Soviet side—156, and third—American, with 74. [passage omitted]

Chief trainer of the USSR track-and-field team Igor Terovanesyan, an experienced Olympian, who participated in the Melbourne, Rome, Tokyo and Mexico

games looked realistic when in the recent interview to Soviet journalists he said that victory in the unofficial team classification was the main Olympic goal of his team.

Economic

Introduction of Cost-Accounting Assessed

LD281135 Moscow TASS in English 0822 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—By TASS correspondent Boris Grishchenko:

Up-to-date study aids dealing with economic subjects are in high demand in the Soviet Union these days and make a fine new-year gift as some 20 million specialists in different fields size up problems that are likely to be encountered when their particular sectors begin to balance their books on the basis of profit and loss.

The changeover to full-scale cost-accounting is to take place from the start of 1988 and will affect industries responsible for more than 60 percent of national industrial output.

The extent of their readiness for the cardinal step is being analyzed carefully both in central agencies and in worker collectives which will now be deciding matters of their technological and social development themselves.

The right has been granted to them by a law on state enterprises (amalgamations) which goes into effect next year as well.

It can be said safely that no other move by the party and the government in the economic field has been so popular as the decision for the national economy to start paying its own way. The required changes are to be fully in place in 1989.

The experience of a number of sectors that were the first to try out the system in the outgoing year demonstrates that cost-accounting offers appreciable benefits the main of which is the possibility for everyone to personally influence the common effort.

At the Moscow-based Krasnaya Rabotnitsa factory, one of the 160 in the capital that have become financially self-supported, the consistent fulfilment of contractual obligations and updating of the product line,with a resultant and immediate increase in demand for its output, has made for above-plan profits.

These, in turn, have enabled the old factory to pay off the bank loans and start thinking of a modernization and refurbishment scheme for the first time.

Many of the factories that are yet only to adopt the new system are looking upon the immediate future with anxiety, fearing, with reason, to be left one on one with the market. The reason is they are not sure that their contracted supplies will be made in full and on time.

The chronic illness of the Soviet economy is hard to cure. Many factories cannot manufacture, and hence market, their products without components delivered from dozens or even hundreds of contractors. Far from all shop-floor workers and managers believe that the chain of unreliability can be broken even by means of the severest economic penalties.

Another matter which has caused a controversy is deductions from enterprises' profits to the state. These deductions are different in different sectors and have mostly been based on previous economic standards as the national economy switches over to cost accounting in this five-year plan period (1986-90) by using the existing balance of funds.

A number of factories have come to the threshold of reform with a burden of debts and low profit rates. The government has drawn up special economic recovery programs for them.

All this together determines the dynamism of the situation shaping in the Soviet economy. And the main factor determining the general mood is irreconcilability to stagnation and decisive rejection of old ways.

This is why millions of bench workers, foremen and engineers have joined economic courses which can now be found at practically every factory.

Oil Minister Sums Up 1987 Successes

LD281424 Moscow TASS in English 1312 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—In the outgoing year, the output of oil with gas condensate in the USSR will reach roughly 624 million tons. Commenting on that figure in a TASS interview, Vasily Dinkov, USSR minister of the oil industry, said that this most important of the Soviet fuel and energy complexes overfulfills today the targets of the five-year plan (1986-1990) and has even eliminated the backlog, which formed in the mid-eighties.

Vasiliy Dinkov links the successes of the industry with the perestroyka which has got under way in the USSR. A mere three or four years ago the oil industry was in an extremely difficult position, which called for a serious re-appraisal of the whole industry's development. Work was considerably intensified in the oil field for an even fuller use of the extracting facilities, accelerating the putting into operation of new oilfields and perfection of the system of pay.

Excessive administrative links have been eliminated in that industry and the rights of oil producing amalgamations have been broadened, the minister said. Today 91 per cent of the personnel employed in the industry receive a higher pay as a result of these reforms. Beginning from early 1988 all of the oil plants will work in conditions of full cost-accounting and self-financing.

At the same time, Vasily Dinkov noted, we are not yet satisfied with the rates of perestroyka. Two oil-producing amalgamations out of three do not cope yet with the plan targets. A number of plants fail to meet their contractual commitments on the supply of products.

Vasily Dinkov noted among other problems of the industry the need for accelerating geogological prospecting in such promising regions as western Kazakhstan, eastern Siberia, the Soviet Far East and the sea shelves.

Next year the USSR is planning to extract 625 million tons of oil with gas compensate, the minister said. 38 new oil deposits are to be brought to a commercial status and 115 wells are to be drilled. These are quite challenging plans. A guarantee of that are new conditions of economic management which closer than any time before link the fulfilment of the pay and the resolution of the social problems of the workers in the industry.

Briefs

GRES Generator Start-Up

The fourth generating set at the Novoangrenskaya GRES is now feeding its 300,000 kw of power into the Central Asia-South Kazakhstan grid system. This marks the completion of the station's first phase: Its overall capacity is now 1,200,000 kw. The population of the nearby power engineers settlement now exceeds 9,000. [video shows GRES control console; engineers at work; external shot of the station; residential buildings] [Summary] [*Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 26 Dec 87 LD*]

Agricultural

Media Report Developments for 23-25 December

LD260214 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 23-25 December. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

23 December

Things are coming to a close in the Ukraine; 87 of the republic's sugar works have already completed processing sugar beet in their zones, but over 100 are still operating. To date 5.1 million tonnes of sugar have been produced, which is 600,000 tonnes more than the whole of last year. About another 200,000 tonnes will be added to produce almost two-thirds of the total Soviet production of sugar. (1600)

The cotton harvest in Uzbekistan was hindered by snow. The total volume of harvested raw cotton is the lowest in the last 10 years. Twenty-six rayons fulfilled their plans. The struggle for the cotton harvest was going on while there were still mountains of raw cotton at the cotton processing works from last year's harvest; that is now spoiled. (1600)

24 December

No fileworthy reports monitored.

25 December

Uzbek farmers have fulfilled the annual plan for grain sales to the state. More than 1 million tonnes of grain have come in this year, including more than 430,000 tonnes of rice. (0204)

The USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee today examined an integrated program aimed at creating a stable basis for the production of sugar beet with the maximum recovery of sugar. It was noted that the nonfulfillment of the tasks laid down by the plan for the procurement of sugar beet and sugar production is a consequence of the fact that many kolkhozes and sovkhozes are still reaping small harvests for this crop. There are significant losses during the storage of the raw material, and the output of the end product at refining enterprises is inadequate. Measures to deal with these problems have been mapped out, including the transfer of crop growing to intensive technology and an improvement in seed growing, as well as the introduction of new machinery and productive and monospermous strains. (1832)

Nikonov Addresses Gosagroprom Party Meeting

LD232110 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; announcer-read report]

[Text] The party organization of the USSR Gosagroprom apparatus held a meeting today to discuss a report from the party committee on the work of leading restructuring. Comrade Nikonov took part in the meeting.

It was noted that according to prelimary data the average annual gross output of agriculture will have increased by 10% in 1986-87. Enterprises in the food and the processing industries of the agro-industrial complex have started to operate more reliably. Yet still the shortage of food remains, which gives rise to great, justified dissatisfaction among the people with the work of the agro-industrial complex. It was said at the meeting that the

party committee has not achieved a radical improvement in its work; boldness in debate does not sit well with timidity in practical affairs.

In his speech, Comrade Nikonov stressed specifically that there can be only one criterion for evaluating the performance of the USSR Gosagroporom's party committee today: real changes for the better in the work of the apparatus to improve the efficienty of enterprises and organizations in the agro-industrial complex and, on that basis, to improve the supply of food products to the public.

An account of the work of the meeting of the party organization of the Gosagroporom's apparatus will be published in the press.

Demichev Attends Joint Session of Commissions

LD162027 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] A joint session of the Agro-Industrial Standing Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet was held in the Kremlin today. It examined issues concerning the USSR Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry's fulfillment of state plan tasks for increasing output and improving the quality and efficiency of production of microbiological fodder protein. Following a comprehensive discussion the commissions adopted specific recommendations aimed at eliminating deficiencies in the work of the ministry. Corresponding recommendations have been made to a number of other USSR ministries and departments.

Taking part in the work of the commissions were Comrade Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the heads of a number of ministries and departments.

Scientific

Further on 'Mir,' 'Soyuz TM-3' Activities

'Soyuz TM-3' To Leave Orbit

LD290428 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] A report from orbit: Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, and Anatoliy Levchenko are to leave the orbital station today and return to earth. Over the last few minutes they have said farewell to Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov, who are to stay in orbit. The three cosmonauts have gone into the "Soyuz TM-3" craft, closing the communication hatch. When they have prepared for separation and performed a series of checks, the craft and station will be undocked.

Crafts Undock in Orbit

LD290635 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Several minutes ago the "Soyuz TM-3" craft, carrying Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, and Anatoliy Levchenko, and the "Mir" orbital station, with Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov, who have stayed on board, undocked in orbit. When preparatory operations and checks of the systems ensuring the safety of the craft's descent to our planet's surface are completed, the craft will begin moving toward the earth. A reportage on the undocking of the craft and the station will be transmitted on our "Panorama" program after 0930 [0630 GMT].

Further on Undocking

LD290730 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0639 GMT 29 Dec 87

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] As we have already reported, the "Soyuz TM-3" craft and the "Mir" station were undocked at 0855. Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, and Anatoliy Levchenko left their colleagues and friends Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov. [passage omitted]

You have been listening to the conversations by radio of Flight Control radio and the space crew, which is to take off for earth today. The beginning of this crucial phase of the space flight is set for approximately 1120 [0820 GMT]. Moscow radio will transmit this event live.

Landing Preparations Made

LD282242 Moscow TASS in English 2106 GMT 28 Dec 87

[text] Arkalyk December 28 TASS—TASS special correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov reports:

There is animation in the snow-coated Turgai steppe in the Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan. The hour when the main parachute will unfold in the sky over the descending capsule is drawing ever nearer.

The heroes of space orbits were met here many times. The medals of Honorary Citizens of Arkalyk were presented in recent years to the cosmonauts of France, India and Syria who landed in these places. And now, Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov and Anatoliy Levchenko are expected to return here from the "Mir" station.

Search service teams—helicopter and cross-country vehicle crews and medical men-parachuters—got accomodated in comfortable houses of a local state farm fifty kilometers away from the regional center. Two days ago, they had a hectic work schedule. A dress rehearsal of the search operation was going on in an area 60 kilometers north-east of Arkalyk. They practiced everything starting

from imitating parachute unfolding over the capsule at a height of seven kilometers (a parachutist with a radio transmitter imitated the descending craft) to setting up a tent for medical personnel to carry out a preliminary examination of the cosmonauts.

The last weather report for the hour of the landing was received in the search headquarters late at night. Mean cloudiness, visibility up to four kilometers and a temperature of some 12 degrees below zero are expected at noon on December 29. On the whole, the forecast is favourable but weathermen warn of a possibility of icing that would prevent search planes and helicopters from taking off. In this case, cross-country vehicle crews will bear the brunt of the search and evacuation. They are on alert.

'Soyuz TM-3' Returns to Earth

LD290932 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 29 TASS—Soviet cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov and Anatoliy Levchenko returned to earth today after completing a program of research and experiments aboard the manned orbiting platform "Mir" ("Peace").

The descent capsule of the "Soyuz TM-3" spaceship soft-landed in the designated area in Soviet territory, near the town of Arkalyk.

Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are continuing their mission aboard "Mir".

New Antarctic Scientific Station To Be Set Up

LD222158 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1218 GMT 22 Dec 87

[Text] Sea of Cosmonauts, on board science expedition ship "Akademik Fedorov," 22 Dec—Special TASS correspondent Nikolay Konstantinov reports:

Soviet researchers intend to open a new, permanent scientific station in Antarctica. The place chosen for it is a rock "oasis" in the Larsemann Hills, near the shore of Prydz Bay in the south polar (More Sodruzhestvo). Last night, more than 40 scientists, specialist planners, and builders transferred from the "Akademik Fedorov" to the "Kapitan Myshevskiy," which set off for the landing point of the scientific detachment. Anatoliy Semenov, a 56-year-old Polar researcher who has participated in many winter Arctic expeditions and seven Antarctic expeditions, will be in charge of constructing and operating the new scientific center under the Soviet flag.

"A Soviet seasonal station was established in the Larsemann Hills at the beginning of this year," Semenov said. "We spent about 3 months there. As reconnaissance studies have shown, there are well-protected bays convenient for ships to approach and unload there. A permanent quay may even be built there in the future. Our group will carry out surveys to select a suitable place for a landing strip for heavy transport aircraft as well."

Organization of the new station, provisionally called Progress, is connected with expansion of geological and geophysical work in the region of the Amery Iceshelf and the neighboring Prince Charles Mountains. Specialists think a zone of deep rift fracture is situated there, along which very old rocks of the crystalline foundations of Antarctica come to the surface. Study of them promises to provide many new ideas about the geological past of the sixth continent and about its links with neighboring geological plates of Africa, Australia, and South America, and about potential mineral resources.

Nineteen Soviet Polar researchers are preparing to carry out the first winter expedition at the station. In the coming 2 months, a settlement of prefabricated panel houses with all life-support systems will be built for them. The station is situated on the Ingrid Christensen coast, approximately equidistant at 1,500 km from the Soviet Mirnyy and Molodezynyy centers. The winter expedition's closest neighbors will be their Australian colleagues at Davis and Mawson bases.

'Flying Laboratory' Conducts Antarctic Research

LD251822 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Antarctica, Molodyozhnaya Observatory December 25 TASS—TASS special correspondent Nikolay Konstantinov reports:

A series of charts compiled on the materials of the first flight by the IL-18 flying laboratory are likened by scientists to "a new geographic discovery of Antarctica". I saw these maps in the aerometeorilogical centre "Molodyozhnaya", Enderby Land. For the first time in the history of Antarctic research, the flying laboratory, equipped with a complex of geophysical instruments logged 130 hours flying time over little studied territories inside the continent, making long distance sounding over an area of about 600,000 square kilometres. New data about the relief of the stone foundation lying under the ice cap were met with much interest.

There has been a dispute over a long time as to what Antarctica is without the ice cap—a continent or an archipelago. Our firm view is that it is a mainland, said Dr. Maksim Krass from the Institute of Mathematics of Moscow University who is conducting here seasonal glaciological research. Dr. Krass is one of the authors of mathematical models of the ice caps of Greenland and Spitzbergen. He intends to create such a model of Antarctica.

First of all, the very ice of Antarctica represents a specific rock consisting of water in a crystalline state, so the expression "ice continent" is applicable to Antarctica in a literal sense of the word, the scientist said. Besides that, it covers a mountainous area with ridges, deep gorges and vast plateaus. This was proved once again by materials obtained by the flying station IL-18, particularly during the flight on the route Molodyozhnaya-Intercontinental station Vostok-Molodyozhnaya.

Though approximately one-fifth part of the Antarctic base is believed to be below sea level, this is itself is not an evidence of its being "submerged". Soviet glaciologists estimated that the ice cap of Antarctica exerts pressure of up to 2,000 tons on each square metre of the earth's crust and pressed the rock base of the continent down. If the ice melted, the stone mainland would have risen by no less than 500 metres on the vertical and would have had the same size as South America.

The study of the relief of Antarctica under the ice cap is necessary for analyzing its geological history and mineral resources. This is an important part of the Soviet Antarctic programme.